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Editorial

## **Editorial Welcome**

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Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Online Higher Education

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Welcome to the first issue of the third volume of the Journal of Online Higher Education!

It is with deep appreciation that I thank Dr. Carmen Herbel Spears, the founding editor of JOHE, for her contributions and leadership to JOHE. Dr. Spears resigned as Editor of the journal this previous January. She was instrumental in the formation of JOHE, and I am grateful for her contributions and vision in JOHE's founding.

My name is Sarah Fulkes, and I have been appointed the Editor by the JOHE Board of Directors. I hold degrees in history, organizational leadership, and education. I feel honored to take over this position from Dr. Spears and hope to continue her vision of building JOHE into a valuable resource in the field of online education.

The field of online education has existed less than 30 years, yet it is revolutionizing our world, making education accessible in a way it has never been in all of human history. JOHE is particularly well-placed to expand the research and literature around the online experience by documenting best practices, profiling and quantifying the online student, and generating new ideas to push the online educational experience forward.

My first experience with online education occurred at Idaho State University in 1996; I took a class in Spanish constitutionalism, and the instructor allowed us to do several of our classes on the ISU telnet "classroom", fondly called the ISU MOO. The experience excited those of us who participated; for the first time, we could participate in an academic experience from the comfort of our homes, assuming, of course, that we had internet services!

As I commuted to ISU from a town 84 miles away, this was a tremendous luxury. At the time, it seemed unrealistic that education could ever be truly internet-based. No one thought the internet would develop at the rate it did; powerful technology in the palm of our hands, revolutionizing communication and the flow of information.

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Fifteen years later, I completed a master's degree completely online, utilizing technology no one could have anticipated in 1996. Three years later, my decision to join the faculty at Independence University allowed me to embrace that model of education I wished for when I was a student at ISU.

Education and technology have finally merged, and all of us have benefitted; we have the opportunity to receive a quality classroom experience anywhere in the world through the internet. Our students can obtain an education from the comfort of their home, while working and raising their families, at their convenience from a quality, accredited institution.

In addition to my own appointment, I'd also like to introduce Alana Howlett, librarian here at Independence, as our new Journal Manager. Alana replaces Daniel Cureton, who temporarily filled the position after the resignation of Randall Ward. She is a long-time follower of open-access publishing and is excited to take a more active role in this field. I am pleased to welcome Alana to our team!

As we move forward, the Journal will focus on expanding the knowledge around effective online education. We are soliciting articles, book reviews, conference reports, and research papers addressing those topics, and their application in career and general education disciplines. Please access the JOHE website for more information.

This issue has a wide diversity of articles, including our first book review and reflection in online education, and peer-reviewed articles on the application of computer-assisted assessment, phlebotomy in the classroom, and cultural trends that impact higher education.

I hope you enjoy!



Sarah Fulkes, MAOL, MAET

Editor, Journal of Online Higher Education