

Editors' Notes

The Development and Growth of a Nonprofit Academic Journal

Norman A. Dolch, Editor-in-Chief
University of North Texas

This historic volume of *JNEL* is the first published by Sagamore Journals of Urbana, IL as part of the new long-term partnership between the Western Kentucky University Research Foundation (WKURF) and Sagamore Journals. Peter Bannon and his team at Sagamore are a delight to work with and will be providing a complete package of publishing services, including marketing, editorial and subscription services, publishing the journal, database services, etc. I continue as editor-in-chief and am delighted with the new arrangements, including the availability of print copies in addition to the electronic version of the journal.

These changes have prompted the need for a new, smaller editorial board. The editorial board will work closely with Dr. Raymond Poff, who represents the WKU Research Foundation, and me to help ensure quality submissions and reviews, provide ongoing input, assist with strategy development, and facilitate other activities to help grow and develop the journal.

I want to thank past editorial board members and other persons who reviewed manuscripts for their service. Without your support and assistance, this journal would not exist. Thank you for all you have done. I am especially grateful to our former copyeditor, Evelyn Pitre. She was an invaluable member of the editorial staff and is an exceptional person. Evelyn, thank you!

This issue opens with an invited essay by Susan Schmidt, vice president of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. From direct contact with Nonprofit Leadership Alliance programs across the country, she shares her perspectives regarding the direction of undergraduate nonprofit training. Three articles follow; one focuses on academic centers and their research priorities, one on teaching students about nonprofit board governance, and one tracks MPA nonprofit concentration graduates on employment experiences. Each article contains kernels of knowledge and wisdom.

A new feature in this issue is a book excerpt from *Board Savvy CEOs* by Doug Eadie. If you have authored a book and can arrange with the publisher for us to publish an excerpt, please contact us. I believe this is a good way to stimulate interest in books. There are also two book reviews. Theresa Ricke-Kiely (University of Notre Dame) joins the editorial staff (volunteer) as our book review editor. In addition to traditional book reviews, Theresa is interested in comparative book reviews in areas such as financial management, marketing, advocacy, introductory management, etc.

We hope that you find this issue interesting, worthwhile, and enjoyable. Please contact me with ideas to improve *JNEL*.

Raymond A. Poff, Managing Editor
Western Kentucky University

My wonderful wife and I are the proud parents of four great children who make us look very good through their behavior, academics, musical talent, and general excellence in all they do. We consider ourselves quite fortunate. We have mixed emotions this year as our oldest child is completing his senior year in high school and preparing to leave home this fall for Brigham Young University (BYU). In considering whether or not we've done all we could do to prepare him for the upcoming chapter of his life, we know there is more we could have done, but we're pretty confident he's been given an excellent foundation. Even though he's leaving for BYU, we realize that we will still be an important part of this life.

Developing and growing the *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership* (JNEL) involved the work of many talented individuals. It grew from conversations held between university nonprofit program coordinators during conferences hosted by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (then American Humanics) from 2007–2009. The general guiding philosophy for this project included developing a journal that would incorporate the research talents of those working in academia along with the talents of nonprofit professionals working primarily in the field. While those in academia are more accustomed to submitting articles for potential publication, nonprofit practitioners are not, but each group has important information to share with the other and the profession. This new journal would allow for field practitioners to share best practices through a formal peer-reviewed format.

When we launched the journal in 2009, I wrote a brief history of the journal and included it on the original journal website: <http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/jnel/history.html>. Parts of that history are included here in our first issue with *Sagamore Journals*, available at <http://js.sagamorepub.com/jnel>.

2007–2009: Dr. Raymond Poff and Dr. Jeffery Guiler investigated a potential publishing partnership between Robert Morris University, WKURF, and American Humanics, Inc. to create a journal. A partnership with Robert Morris University was not feasible at the time. Dr. Matthew Jendian (CSU-Fresno), Ms. Susan Schmidt (University of Memphis), Dr. SueAnn Strom, Dr. Norman A. Dolch (LSU-Shreveport), Dr. Raymond Poff (WKU), and others continued the journal creation discussion and worked on developing a proposal to present to the American Humanics® Board of Directors to create a publishing partnership.

During this time, other leading nonprofit associations were contacted about the project to investigate possible collaborations. These organizations were very positive about the creation of the new journal but were unable to commit their participation as business partners at the time.

June 2009: The American Humanics Board of Directors voted at the June 2009 board meeting to approve a formal partnership between AH and WKURF to create the *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*. The founding journal advisory group was formed with two representatives from each of the two partner organizations: Raymond A. Poff, PhD, Western Kentucky University; SueAnn Strom, PhD, American

Humanics, Inc.; Susan T. Schmidt, MPA, University of Memphis, American Humanics Board Member; and Connie Foster, MLS, Western Kentucky University. Norman A. Dolch, PhD, University of North Texas, was selected and hired in September as the first editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*.

November 27, 2009 Journal Launch–September 16, 2013: The *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership* was announced on November 17, 2009, at the Teaching Section Reception sponsored by American Humanics during the 2009 Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. American Humanics rebranded and was renamed as the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. The first issue of the *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership* was published in November 2010.

On September 16, 2013, the publishing partnership between the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance and the WKU Research Foundation concluded. The WKURF gratefully acknowledges the initial support provided by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance during the journal's start-up phase.

December 13, 2013–present: The WKURF and Sagamore Journals entered into a long-term partnership to publish the *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*. Sagamore will assume all publishing and financial aspects, and the WKURF will remain responsible for overseeing the editorial process, working with the editor-in-chief and the editorial board to help ensure the continued provision of quality content for the journal.

I am grateful to all those who have made this journal what it is today. This journal has been a type of “professional child” we have helped raise. There is more we could have done to better prepare it for its next chapter, but I believe that we have done a pretty job creating a foundation that will support its future growth. While Sagamore Journals will assume the publisher role, WKURF will still be an important part of the journal and its continued success.

I would like to publicly thank Norm Dolch for his vision and dedication to this project. He always has great ideas and is deeply invested in the success of the journal. I'm quite certain the journal would not be where it is today without Norm's ongoing and excellent efforts. Thanks, Norm.

Thanks to all who have submitted manuscripts, reviewed manuscripts, provided leadership, promoted the journal, and made other efforts to help strengthen the journal. I look forward to working with you in the future as we continue our efforts.