



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Journal Board is proud to bring you the fall 2021 volume of *The Journal of College and University Student Housing*. We continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the always-changing landscape of higher education is evolving in ways and at a pace that many of us haven't witnessed before. While so much of the past (nearly) two years has been difficult in many ways, I hope you have seen glimpses of how some things have changed positively. Fall is a time of year when we are reminded that change can literally be beautiful and transformative. We encourage you to read and reflect on the contents of this volume and how this research can help as we all process the changes we are experiencing. Think about the contents, share the information with others, and see where the conversation leads.

This issue starts off with Gudrun Nyunt's study, endorsed by the ACUHO-I research committee, examining residence life staff's social-psychological well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic and how this affects their intention to continue working in residence life. Next, Autumn Beck, Matt Nadler, and Dustin Grabsch sought to fill a gap in the literature by studying what college students' sense of belonging in a residential community means from a student perspective. The student-grounded definition that emerged from their study details what it means to belong to a residential community, which may inform these professionals on how to best enhance the student experience in college. The third and fourth articles in this issue explore resident assistant self-efficacy. Krista Soria, G. Blue Brazelton, and Brayden Roberts explored resident assistants' leadership self-efficacy and found that, compared to their peers, RAs "had significantly higher confidence in their ability to lead others, organize a group's tasks to accomplish goals, take initiative to improve something, and work with a team on a group project."

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John Lingat and colleagues used the Rasch model to provide validity evidence for a new instrument and process to optimize the measurement of RA self-efficacy “using locally developed items sourced from RA duties.” Practitioners such as university and student housing administrators and residence hall directors can use these findings to inform hiring, training, and evaluation. Finally, Dustin Grabsch, Laura Bell, Hannah Webb, Grant Stoehr, and Nikita Kulkarni used a qualitative historical research perspective to explore themes from conference program schedules (e.g., program session titles, presenters, presenter affiliations) for two prominent associations related to residential colleges. This study reveals the need for more consistency in the number of conference presentations and more diversity in the number of presenting institutions.

As in every issue, we owe many thanks to the volunteers and devoted staff who contribute to the process of publishing *The Journal of College and University Student Housing*. Our associate editors carefully guide and mold the process, overseeing teams of talented and dedicated reviewers. Our copy editor for this issue (and many past issues), Christine Freeman, carefully, quickly, and professionally handles this important step towards publication. Ellen Gray shared her talents as the graphic designer for this issue. Finally, our reviewers provided thoughtful and insightful discussion questions for each article in this issue. I am confident that there is something useful here for everyone who reads it. Enjoy the articles, utilize the discussion questions, and be thoughtful about how you can use and apply the information you learn from these pages.

Sarah Gordon, Editor
The Journal of College and University Student Housing