



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Journal Board is proud to bring you the Spring 2022 volume of *The Journal of College and University Student Housing*! I am cautiously optimistic that we are getting a glimpse of what the other side of the pandemic will look like, and I am hopeful that we are able to start looking forward to what the future holds for higher education and campus housing programs. Now is as good a time as ever to take a moment to appreciate and apply the lessons we learned over the past two years and think about how scholarship in our field helps shape what we will put our energy and effort into for the future. We encourage you to reflect on the contents of this volume with that lens.

This issue starts off with two articles that focus on unique research within living-learning communities. Ryan Erck and Rishi Sriram utilized structural equation modeling to determine the relationship between eight interaction variables and five thriving variables for LLC students. Using this model, they were able to use individual interactions to predict student thriving in unique and significant ways. Next Richie Gebauer, Michelle Filling-Brown, Nancy Watterson, Anne Filippone, Courtney Smith, Laura Groves, Darryl Mace, and Maya Gordon provide an application of the Best Practices Model to a well-established, constantly evolving learning community program. Through a reflective analysis of four living-learning communities, their manuscript is thought to be the first to apply this theory to practice, specifically articulating how the model can be used for reflection on as well as assessment and improvement of a program. Our third article, by J. Cody Nielsen and Steven Sajkich, seeks to help practitioners consider religious, secular, and spiritual identities as a vital component of their efforts to support students by providing guidance on pathways to engage with religious and non-religious identities. The article notes that trends on college and university campuses related to attitudes of students regarding RSSIs have

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changed dramatically since the early 21st century and encourages practitioners to consider the importance of the topic in advancing campus housing and residential life efforts. The final two articles in this issue focus on the RA experience.

Caitlyn McClure, Jennifer Anderson, Eun Young Jang, Gretchen Birong, Paul Brunn, and Amanda Krier-Jenkins sought to explore the impact of the RA position on student employees filling the role. The study makes an important contribution to our knowledge of burnout, compassion fatigue, and secondary traumatic stress as well as highlighting the critical role that RAs play in campus housing. Finally, James C. Stoner and Yi Leaf Zhang used Rosenberg and McCullough's framework of mattering to explore the relationships between RAs and their residents. The results confirm that mattering serves as an appropriate lens through which to begin addressing the relational component of the RA job when targeting burnout experienced by RAs, most notably in the areas of depersonalization and personal accomplishment.

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. Camille Perlman, our champion in the ACUHO-I home office, works tirelessly to ensure a quality process and product for readers and helps with the administrative logistics in getting each issue through publication. 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, a mix of editors, reviewers, and graduate students provided thoughtful and insightful discussion questions for each article in this issue. I am confident 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

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