

THE SACRAO JOURNAL

The Role Parents Play in Building the STEM Pipeline

STACY FAIR

**Best Practices for Design of Admission
Offices and Welcome Centers**

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**How to Grow a Leader: Experiences of Higher
Education Faculty and Staff in a Homegrown
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**Literature Review: Understanding the Impact
of Dual Enrollment on Student Success**

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**Reconsidering Best Practices: A Case Study of a
Community College Assessing Student Completion**

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**Parting Ways with Paper: Student
Perceptions of the CeDiploma**

RODNEY PARKS

ALEXANDER TAYLOR

JESSE PARRISH

THE SACRAO JOURNAL is published annually by the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, a professional association to promote and advance the improvement of admissions, registration, records, data management, international education and financial aid management practices through study, education, and research; to advance professional knowledge and techniques by fostering the exchange of experiences and information; and to develop and advance standards of competence in the profession. The Editorial Board is responsible for the selection and acceptance of manuscripts which are the responsibility of the author. The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the views of SACRAO. SACRAO does not endorse the products or services described by authors.

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THE SACRAO JOURNAL

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The Editorial Board welcomes manuscripts for publication in SACRAO's academic, refereed publication, *The SACRAO Journal*. Members of SACRAO are encouraged to submit articles which pertain to their professional and research experiences regarding issues and innovative practices in the profession.

Preference is given to articles authored by SACRAO members, but articles from outside the membership will be considered based on revelatory findings that advance the work of SACRAO members. Active *Journal* Editorial Board members may not submit articles for publication; book reviews and commentaries by Board members may be published at the discretion of the Editor.

Preparing Manuscripts

The complete title of the article should be placed on the first page of the text, with the author's name *excluded*. The author should provide a phone and email address. Unless specified otherwise, the principal (first-named) author will be sent all correspondence.

Manuscripts should be submitted in accordance with the stylistic rules and guidelines delineated in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed., 2010). For information, visit <http://www.apastyle.org>. Manuscript pages should be numbered consecutively. All manuscripts are accepted for publication with the understanding that *The SACRAO Journal* Editorial Board reserves the right to edit for clarity, syntax, and style. At the discretion of the Editorial Board, authors may be asked to shorten or lengthen articles.

The Editor will acknowledge receipt of manuscripts and will forward them to members of the Editorial Board for review. The Board will consider the appropriateness of the articles for SACRAO's membership and reserves the right to reject articles submitted for publication.

Manuscript Submission

Manuscripts submitted for publication must be original material, which has not been simultaneously submitted for publication elsewhere. Length of manuscripts, including references and tables, should range from about eight to 20 double-spaced, 8.5 x 11-inch pages. Abstracts are limited to 125 words. Authors should retain a copy of the manuscript to guard against loss.

First drafts of manuscripts are due August 1 annually, and revisions by the Editorial Board are generally returned to the author by the end of September. The final deadline for manuscripts is November 15 in order to meet the printing schedule.

Please email your manuscript to Dr. Ginnifer Cié Gee at ginnifer.gee@utsa.edu

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Editor's Reflections

How quickly time slips away. It seems like only yesterday I was writing last year's reflections about the origins of journals and their valuable role in our learning and archival of information. As the torch will be passed to a new editor of the *Journal* next year, this time, I will be far less academic in my musings, and instead focus on the good work of the editorial board and the authors who contributed to this year's *Journal*.

Many of you do not know what goes on behind the curtain of *The SACRAO Journal*. So, I am going to lift the veil of secrecy—it is the work of the editorial board that moves the *Journal* forward. This board of academic professionals selects the authors, provides feedback and comments, and determines the Margaret Ruthven Perry Award winner. This work is critical and often not recognized as it should be. Therefore, I wish to use this platform to draw special attention to the men and women who make things happen. Thanks to Jennifer Hardy, Nicole Martin, Cindy Peterson, and Luke Schultheis for their hours of dedication and editorial expertise. Last year, I lauded the work of the board, but words did not seem to be adequate. In this instance, where I generally find words are a magnificent gift, I find them failing, yet again, to express my appreciation. And what can I say about my fearless leader in this process, who serves as Vice President for Professional Development? I can say this: Bradley Barnes, you are the epitome, sir, of gallantry and educational prose. Thank you for your contributions and your *joie de vivre*. To the Executive Committee, thank you for your continued support of the *Journal*.

To the authors, I simply say, "WOW!" You put forth an interesting array of articles representing multiple states, subjects, and areas of expertise. Thank you for your hard work, your hours of writing, and your follow through with the edits from the board. The information you have gathered and shared by way of the 2017 *SACRAO Journal* highlights for our readership emerging trends, critical thoughts, and best practices in the field. Stacy Fair reveals for us an excellent review of the role parents play in promoting students in the STEM fields. Lori Garret's overview of best practices in designing

admission and welcome center spaces is not only informational, but a long overdue review of how the design of space can impact positively, or negatively, an institution's enrollment. Cié Gee investigates the role and impact of a home grown leadership program on its faculty and staff participants, while David Jenkins provides a literature review on the role of dual enrollment on student success. Matthew McCrickard provides a case study on community college student completion and sets the stage for a better understanding of the national completion agenda, and Rodney Parks, Alexander Taylor, and Jesse Parrish round out the content with their excellent study on the perception of first generation users of certified electronic diplomas.

As I reflect on all the hours of work that went into this year's *Journal* by the authors and board, I have to also pause and think about its future, as reflection is nothing if it isn't couched in what it means for that which is yet to come. With this in mind, I encourage all emerging scholars, perennialists of the profession, and students of higher education to consider writing for next year's *Journal*. Join those who have gone before you in promulgating wisdom. I look forward to seeing all of my SACRAO colleagues at the Annual Conference in sunny St. Petersburg, Florida February 12- 15, 2017. It's going to be an exciting time with great friends!



The SACRAO Journal editor, Jacquelyn D. Elliott, Ed.D, is Chief Enrollment Specialist at Marion Military Institute in Marion, Alabama and serves on the AACRAO Board as Vice President for International Education. Prior to becoming editor, she served as SACRAO Vice President for Professional Development (VPPD) and was also a member of the Admissions & Enrollment Committee.