

STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Inform and Reform***

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Voices of Reform: Editor Statement

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Voices of Reform: Editor Statement

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It is a pleasure to welcome you to our first collaborative and co-edited issue of our journal, which is a partnership with Florida Atlantic University.

When *Voices of Reform* began six years ago, one of our goals was to form collaborative partnerships with other institutions where their students could submit, and their faculty could help in the editing process. Based on the experience I had with Florida Atlantic University, I welcome collaboration with any institution that would like to do something similar.

Our journal has gained a tremendous readership over the last two years. We are now ERIC indexed, and regularly come up under searches on Google Scholar. This is thanks to our readership and the great quality of authors who have submitted to our journal. We are expecting to publish two issues for calendar year 2023, and two (potentially three) for calendar year 2024. The quality of submissions is up, and our acceptance rate is up as well. We offer a 63% acceptance rate as of November 28th, 2023, which is up from 54% last year. At the end of the day, we care more about quality articles than trying to be an elite journal, and quite frankly, our articles have been much better this year, and we want to include as many high-quality authors as we can.

This issue is also unique because it highlights Action Research projects, and all of the articles are written in the style that we would like for our Voices from the Field section. This is because the articles have been written by practicing master's and doctoral students, all of whom are in the field doing great things in education. We think this issue will be extremely beneficial for practitioners.

Our first article discusses group rotation in engineering education from Erica L. Cheva. I was particularly drawn to this article because I remember working in science classes with the same partners repeatedly, and Erica's work really supports the opportunity for frequent group changes and collaborations with different students.

Christopher Clevenger's article focuses on analytical writing in the humanities, specifically in Social Studies. I can't think of a timelier article due to the changes to the Social Studies curriculum throughout the state of Florida, and Chris makes a great argument for why this style of writing is important.

Students acting as instructors or peer tutors is something that is not new to education and is even included in popular observation models such as Marzano's. Katherine Hendrickson investigates effective ways this strategy can be employed in science classrooms, an area where arguably, it may fit best.

SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, and Sight Words) is becoming more and more popular of a program for ELL students throughout the United States. In our next article, Maria Soto examines how this program has helped a population of students in her classroom.

We continue with Jacqueline Staszczak-Flavio's article, *A Multiple Perspective Approach to Teaching History in a Modern World*. This is another hot button issue in the state of Florida, and Jacqueline offers strategies for teachers interested in pursuing this methodology.

Our next article comes from Samantha Sylvestri and Lauren Arlt, who examine the use of visual and kinesthetic tools in learning mathematics. With the new B.E.S.T. standards in place in Florida, this is an article that reflects some of the innovative ways that children can use kinesthetic supports to learn mathematics.

Agnes Timar's article looks at how advanced math in the form of a 9th grade Precalculus course, can best utilize small-group instruction to help students learn the material.

Finally, we close with an article that examines a very popular topic in SEL with Márta Vajda's, "*I Can Stop Doubting Myself*": *ADHD College Students' Experiences from ADHD Coaching: An Action Research Study*. We are seeing more and more students experiencing ADHD or getting diagnosed with it in college, and articles like Marta's are going to become more and more popular in the coming years.

If this issue interests you, we are interested in working with you in the future! Please enjoy the articles and we welcome feedback toward future partnerships with other higher education institutions.

Dr. Lou L. Sabina

Editor-in-Chief

Voices of Reform