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Introductory Pages

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About the Journal



An Overview

The *Journal of College Access* (JCA) focuses on the current trends, research, practices, and development of all types of programs, policies, and activities related to the access of and success in postsecondary education. Issues of college aspiration, qualification, application, enrollment, and persistence are the primary emphases.

The Journal was co-founded by Dr. Patrick O'Connor and Dr. Christopher Tremblay. O'Connor is Associate Dean for College Counseling at Kingswood Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and is a board member for the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN). Tremblay is Associate Provost for Enrollment Management at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan and is an active member of the College and Career Action Network in Kalamazoo and MCAN.



JCA is affiliated with the Michigan College Access Network, a statewide non-profit organization with a mission to increase college readiness, participation, and completion in Michigan, particularly among low-income students, first-generation college going students, and students of color.

Launched in March 2014, JCA is a part of Western Michigan University's ScholarWorks, a digital showcase of research, scholarly and creative output.

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We accept submissions year round.

scholarworks.wmich.edu/jca



About Our Next Volume



The *Journal of College Access* (JCA) is excited to announce that our third volume will be dedicated to the issues and topics that will arise out of these events in late February/early March: Evidence Based School Counseling Conference and the Innovations in School Counselor Preparation.

JCA is partnering with the newly-formed National Consortium for School Counseling and Postsecondary Success (NCSCPS).



About NCSCPS

The impetus for the NCSCPS emerged in response to First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative and the call for improvements to school counseling and school-based college and career counseling systems. Beginning with two national convenings in collaboration with the White House's College Opportunity Agenda, the NCSCPS has been established to carry the momentum of the 2014 introduction of Reach Higher initiative and the achievements that followed.

It aims to provide a leading voice for college and career services with specific attention to driving outcomes that increase equitable and accessible pathways to postsecondary success for all students, especially those who face formidable barriers to postsecondary opportunities. Our goal is to act as a catalyst to strengthen school counseling and college advising through targeted activities in five focus areas, all of which are predicated on school counselor leadership and strategic partnerships.

(Source: <http://www.ncscps.org/about.cfm>)
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From the Editors



Authored by
Dr. Patrick O'Connor
Dr. Christopher W. Tremblay



Welcome to our second volume!

Our first volume was a hit and has had nearly 1600 downloads in the

first 11 months! We are excited to feature the work of 10 professionals, scholars, and researchers sharing knowledge with us. Enjoy this volume.

This issue also includes our first two book reviews along with a preview of a research report from the National College Access Network (NCAN).

Special thanks to WMU graduate students Bonny Sucherman, Colleen Stano, & Grace Sims who proofread the final version before we published.

FEATURED ARTICLES

Increasing College Opportunity: School Counselors and FAFSA Completion

In this groundbreaking study, Laura Owen and Erik Westland confirm the power of well-trained school counselors, as their research describes the increases in student completion of the FAFSA and college enrollment as a result of FAFSA-specific training given to high school counselors.

Keeping the PROMISE: Factors Affecting Timing to Merit Scholarship Loss

Many states offer merit scholarship programs, but what key factors lead to success for the students who earn these scholarships, and affect retention rates? Jacob Gross, Angela Bell, and Matthew Berry offer fresh insights into these questions with their review of students receiving the West Virginia PROMISE scholarship.

