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Introductory Pages

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"By 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world."

-President Obama



The Journal of College Access dedicates this special issue to outgoing President Barack Obama, who committed his 8 years in office to increasing college access and success.

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 Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.



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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From the Editors



Authored by
Dr. Patrick O'Connor
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Welcome to our third edition!

It's an exciting time to be working in the field of college access, for many reasons. Nearly ten years ago, the economic downturn led many to believe that a four year college degree was the only route to a secure future. Thanks to expanded research and advising programs, more Americans than ever before now know there are many paths to strong jobs and careers, with many—but not all— of those paths taking students to some kind of college experience. It could be a four-year degree, but it can also be a two-year degree, a certificate, or post-high school training that prepares students for a meaningful career in the skilled trades.

America's expanded view of what college means, and the idea that more Americans can take full advantage of one or more of those college options, has been greatly promoted by President Barak Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. Using their personal stories as the basis of the Reach Higher campaign, The First Family has increased awareness of college opportunities, and inspired Americans to explore those options, as no president has since the introduction of the GI bill.

As President Obama leaves office, we feature guest perspectives on the state of college access from those who helped shape it during his administration. These reflections are offered in the hope policymakers and college access champions will use them to advance efforts to increase awareness of college options, and to continue to expand the understanding of all the ways students can pursue “college.”