

## *From the Editors*

Welcome to the Winter 2017 issue of *The Rural Educator*. In this issue, we are pleased to initiate our first special topic issue with a focus on collaboration. According to Merriam Webster's dictionary, the definition of collaboration is "to work jointly with others or together". Such an endeavor is at the forefront of activities for members of rural communities and rural and small schools. We believe this topic deserved special attention in the journal, and we hope you agree.

In this issue, four papers with various perspectives on collaboration are featured. They highlight aspects of working together on the part of school principals, teachers, and support personnel. These four articles address features of leadership, relationships, partnerships, and professional learning communities in an effort to support professional needs and student development. We are excited that Hobart Harmon has written an introduction to this special issue, highlighting how to further our understanding of collaboration and partnerships in rural education. Finally, we continue our practice of featuring a policy brief in each issue of the journal. For this issue, we have included the transition memo from AASA: The School Superintendents Association addressing education concerns for the new federal administration.

This issue will be published both as a paper copy and as an electronic publication. *The Rural Educator* is hosted at Mississippi State University Library:  
<http://library.msstate.edu/ruraleducator>

The journal seeks two types of submissions: empirical-based, research manuscripts and promising practice manuscripts. Specific guidelines for each of these type of manuscripts is available online at  
<http://library.msstate.edu/ruraleducator>

As always, we would like to thank the individuals who have served as reviewers. We greatly appreciate their time and expertise. The quality of the journal cannot happen without their efforts. We welcome additional reviewers. If you would like to review for the journal, please contact *The Rural Educator*  
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Sincerely,  
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