

# Letter from the Director

At the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration, we embrace the idea of “doing good and doing it well.” Our superb journal, *Policy Perspectives*, is one of the examples I often give of how everyone in our school – faculty, students and alumni – work to improve public policy and administration.

This 21st volume of our student publication demonstrates again the ability of student research to examine issues that are both timely and significant. Some of the articles address issues that are close to home. A student explores a comprehensive strategy for testing and treating HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC. Some articles delve into issues affecting the public welfare much farther afield. There’s a comparative analysis of land tenure policies in Rwanda and Côte d’Ivoire in the years following each country’s civil wars, as well as an examination of encouraged savings behavior through conditional cash transfers in Latin America.

The research reported addresses issues at all levels of our intergovernmental system. State policies are examined in “Direct Democracy and the Politics of Abortion: Evaluating the Responsiveness of State Abortion Policy to State Abortion Attitudes.” Federal policies are the subject of articles about GMO labeling, wind power production and the mortgage interest deduction. Each of these articles benefited from student editors and faculty reviewers, and from the authors’ willingness to research, write, revise, research more and then revise again.

This volume shows how public policy and administration theories and frameworks help us address real-world issues and challenges. Our student authors offer solid research and suggestions for improving systems and influencing change.

These articles have the potential to inform policy deliberations, and help bring about change. In addition to this print format, *Policy Perspectives* is also an online, open-access publication with the contents of the entire issue available at [www.policy-perspectives.org](http://www.policy-perspectives.org). Each of the articles in this issue will receive a digital object identifier (DOI), which guarantees stable and enduring online access.

Policy analysts and others involved in policy formulation and implementation can find these articles through Google Scholar. Like the articles in volumes that preceded this one, I am confident these articles will help public servants, policy analysts and policy advocates to do good and do it well to serve the public good.

**Kathryn Newcomer, PhD**

Director

The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration