

Editor's Note

Eleanor H. Copeland

The purpose of this journal is to provide an opportunity for individuals to offer their perspectives on public policy and its management around the world. This first edition of the journal is composed of articles by students, faculty members, and alumni of the Department of Public Administration of The George Washington University. These perspectives reflect George Washington's unique proximity to and involvement in the nation's capital, where public policy is debated and implemented daily.

Policy Perspectives is the result of the ideas and efforts of a number of individuals. Thanks go to Celeste Murphy, whose idea marked the beginning of our journey, to faculty members and the Department Chair for their support, and to others too numerous to list who believed that graduate students could produce a journal worthy of their alma mater.

President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, who is a Professor in the Department of Public Administration, generously made resources available for the project and agreed to submit his reflections on the changing nature of public administration. Professor Jill Kastle's commitment of time and energy has been matched only by her commitment to excellence, and without her guidance this journal would not have come into being. Her dedication to this project has been extraordinary.

The editors did yeoman's service and used their perspectives to develop the strengths of each article. Their diligent work and the painstaking research of the associate editors were essential. And Stephen Burns deserves full credit for turning a messy pile of manuscripts into a professional publication. His talent is all the more notable for the lack of a blueprint from which to work.

Our authors focus on a variety of topics. Philip Bransford's article points out that we have not yet learned the lessons of the savings and loan crisis, and, thus, the crisis may be relived. After spending time herself on an Indian reservation, Deirdre McGlone examines the singular issues involved in the economic development of these reservations. Although nuclear waste has been an issue for years, Andrew Zehe's article warns that the burden may soon pass to the federal government and to future generations.

David Datelle argues that federalism, a topic once relegated to history classes, is back on the front burner as both federal and state governments run into budgetary conflicts. Lawrence Boyer analyzes data relevant to today's immigration debate and examines the effect of immigrants on the wages of workers in the United States. John Hartung discusses several recent Supreme Court and lower court decisions and their implications for public administrators and legislators. And, The Honorable Henry G. Cisneros, Class of 1976 and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, provides a speech given at a George Washington University conference on Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

These pages reflect the thoughts of individuals who are concerned with issues of public policy and their management. I am grateful to each of them for their contributions. It is our intention that their perspectives will assist those in the public arena as they face the difficult problems of our time. And it is our hope that these perspectives will suggest new levels of thought about today's complicated questions, paying homage to Albert Einstein's counsel that "the significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them." ☆