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Letter from the Editor

It is an honor to join IFOTS Journal as Associate Editor in Chief. I have found the journal informative and enjoyed contributing to the previous editions. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with colleagues at an international level to further the important work of IFOTS Journal. My career path as an educator and lifelong passion aligns with IFOTS forum that provides a space for educators, scholars, and other subject matter experts to share important research and findings from a practice-based approach. It is my goal to continue to contribute to IFOTS to maintain this much needed space as we continue to face challenges at a global level to support the improvement in teaching from an international lens. This issue continues to provide that lens as the contributors are from a broad background providing current research and findings related to current challenges in education.

The research topics and findings in this issue provide some insight to the challenges as an educator. As educators, we are often challenged with navigating a system that might have limitations in being one's true self. In this issue, two educators review the challenges for faculty in higher education that are faced with challenges in hiring, tenure, and promotion. Two other contributors provide an essay on how we can approach emotional awareness to address challenges as an individual (internal lens) and in the role as an educator (external lens) by working as a community taking a holistic approach. Another contributor provides the findings from a current study that identifies how to close a gap by advancing demographic knowledge of online instruction and its effects on teachers' performance.

In this issue, contributors also provide some key aspects in working toward overcoming some of the challenges in education. One of the contributors' articles seeks to address how anti-Black campus police and the institutions that employ them cause harm to the Black students and students of color that they recruit and enroll. Based on the reviewing of literature, another contributor identifies the importance of storytelling in intercultural contexts that will provide the opportunity for our readers to come away with a greater understanding of the importance of imparting students with storytelling skills in another language, as well as the knowledge to conduct in person or online Story Circles with their own students. Another contributor shares their stories of listening to the firsthand experiences of teachers, reflecting on their motivations for living and teaching in Costa Rica, and examining how they connected with students.

As the challenges in education continue to exist, it is our goal to continue to connect educators and other related professionals in the field of education to share their expertise. We invite you to read this issue and previous issues to continue to learn and consider how your area of expertise and research can contribute to this collaborative space.

Dr. Vincent Wiggins

Associate Editor-in-Chief, International Forum of Teaching and Study,

American Scholars Press

Southern California University - Center for Faculty Development and Excellence

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