

## **Editors' Welcome**

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This issue of *Educational Renaissance* includes a featured research article and the selected proceedings from the Fall 2013 Joint Conference of TECSCU and TRG held September 28 to October 1 in Arlington, Virginia.

The issue features a research article from our teacher education colleagues at Western Kentucky University. The study examines the inter-rater reliability of the Teacher Work Sample scoring rubric. The Teacher Work Sample was the original “signature project” of The Renaissance Group and continues to be used widely by universities across the country.

Following the featured article is the selected Conference Proceedings from the Fall 2013 Joint Conference of TECSCU and TRG. The proceedings include reflections on the conference by TRG’s Executive Director, Dr. Michael Giovannetti and TECSCU’s President-elect, Dr. Katy Heyning. At the conference, Dr. John Welty, President Emeritus of California State University, Fresno and Renaissance Leadership Award recipient in 2013, shared his “Reflection on the Future of Higher Education.” This “last lecture” is also included in the proceedings.

Finally two papers were selected for inclusion in the conference proceedings:

1. Common Core State Standards (CCSS) – Higher Education’s Role In Developing Education Professionals: An Evaluation of the Network for Instructional Support and Enhancement (NISE) Program at the University of Central Missouri, and
2. Transforming Clinical Practice in Teacher Education through Pre-Service Co-Teaching and Coaching.

These two articles are not only very timely, but they cover issues of critical importance to the field of teacher education. We are confident that you will find this issue to be both interesting and useful.

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