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Editor-in-Chief's Greeting

This issue of the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, volume 44, issue 1, marks the publication of the first issue since I began serving as editor-in-chief. Together with a number of excellent reviewers, the *AICRJ* staff and I have put together an exciting issue that introduces new research. Two articles on postsecondary education analyze new data on recruitment and retention and probe current institutional resistance to indigenization; a stunning commentary surveys the US government's ongoing use of the Choctaw Nation as an environmental toxics dumping ground, which resonates with a historical analysis of how early-nineteenth-century Native land dispossession used proto-conservation rationales; and two articles focus on the early twentieth-century—an examination of Ojibwe lawyer Marie Baldwin's complex influence on the Society of American Indians, and an expert analysis of the appropriation of Native basketry.

This issue also marks a turning of the page for our journal as we position the *AICRJ* toward a unique vantage point and perspective: *community* and its multiple meanings. First, we seek research related to Indigenous peoples' communities. We publish quality research across a wide range of disciplines within the social sciences, humanities, education, law, and society, and community-engaged (physical) sciences in contemporary and historical settings.

Second, we strive to create a community of scholars. We publish quality research by, for, and with American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other Indigenous peoples and their various communities—whether they are nations, tribes, townships, villages, or islands. We seek to balance a local, national, and international focus, with special attention given to California Indian nations. We publish research endeavors showcasing innovative thought, integrity, and collaboration.

With the aim to engage scholars in novel ways that improve insight, collaboration, and equity in research, we will convene a new journal space dedicated to discussions, dialogue, extensions, and applications of existing research across subject areas, disciplines, and communities.

We are also pleased to announce our new editorial board, formed in December 2020. The new editorial board will serve for a term of six years and will provide guidance on special issues of the *AICRJ* and input on new and emerging research topics. We are excited to have this esteemed set of scholars on our new editorial board: Robin Maria Delugan (UC Merced), Inés Hernández-Ávila (UC Davis), Felicia Schanche Hodge (UCLA), Shari M. Huhndorf (UC Berkeley), Andrew Jolivéte (UC San

Diego), Paul V. Kroskirty (UCLA), Beth Rose Middleton (UC Davis), Angela R. Riley (UCLA), and Clifford E. Trafzer (UC Riverside).

Finally, we are excited to announce two new special issues in production addressing COVID-19 and Indigenous peoples. New research manuscripts and commentaries will be published in the next few months in *AICRJ* issues 44.2 and 44.3. The culmination of a summer 2020 call for papers, these issues reveal the impact and responses to COVID-19 on Indigenous peoples in the United States, Canada, and New Zealand. Coedited with Drs. Chandra Ford of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and Stephanie Carroll of the University of Arizona Zuckerman School of Public Health and the Native Nations Institute, the topics in these two issues range from innovative responses to the pandemic at the local and community levels, to methods that promote equity in healthcare provision.

Randall Akee

February 2, 2021