Texas A&M International University's College of Education takes pride in presenting The Journal of Border Educational Research. It is the intent of this scholarly endeavor to provide an avenue for educators to attain effective educational research practices, particularly as such practices apply to South Texas education.

For a number of years, educators residing in the region have conducted the unique research that only occurs in the border vicinity. The region, like nowhere else in the nation, faces unique challenges to student learning.

Capitalizing on the tremendously rich research opportunities of the area, partnerships were formed by the University and local school systems to document and explore these unique educational characteristics and issues. Through research initiatives within graduate and undergraduate educational programs and with other Texas institutions of higher education, Texas A&M International University's College of Education seeks to improve the quality of teacher preparation programs in the state. The faculty anticipates professional endeavors in teaching, research, and service as they strive to provide the best-prepared teachers, counselors, and administrators for Texas public schools.

A special thanks goes to the Regent's Initiative for Excellence in Education Project in the Texas A&M University System that made funding assistance for publishing the journal possible. The goal of the Regent's Initiative Project is to improve strategies for teacher preparation across the state, so that Texas educators are second to none.

Also, appreciation is expressed to Dr. Linda Medearis, Director of the Regent's Initiative for Excellence in Education Project; to Dr. William Reaves, associate vice chancellor for Public Education and assistant commissioner for School-University Initiatives and the Texas A&M University System's Institute for School-University Partnerships; and to Dr. Carolyn McCreight, associate professor in the Department of Professional Programs at Texas A&M International University, who agreed to serve as journal editor. It is my hope that the readers will profit from the contents of this publication.

Rosa Maria Vida, Ph.D., Dean
College of Education

Welcome to the 2003 issue of The Journal of Border Educational Research. Universities across the state were invited to submit articles for the publication.

A special thanks goes to the members of the Executive Review Panel who gave their time and expertise reviewing submitted articles for journal inclusion.

The focus of the Journal is educational research, particularly border issues. However, we recognize that educational issues are not specific to border regions and may apply to regions across Texas.

It is our hope that you will enjoy this issue and consider joining the rank of authors submitting articles of interest for the next publication.

Carolyn McCreight, Ed. D.,
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