

National Youth-At-Risk Journal

Volume 3
Issue 1 *Fall 2018*

Article 1

December 2018

Letter from the Editor

Cordelia D. Zinskie
Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation

Zinskie, C. D. (2018). Letter from the Editor. *National Youth-At-Risk Journal*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.20429/nyarj.2018.030101>

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Letter from the Editor

Abstract

Cordelia D. Zinskie, Chief Editor of the *National Youth-At-Risk Journal*, shares journal updates and provides an overview of articles included in this issue.

Keywords

journal update, overview of articles



December 30, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

Dan Rea, founding editor of the *National Youth-At-Risk Journal*, approached me in the fall of 2013 about working with him to establish a journal to complement the long-time, successful National Youth-At-Risk Conference held annually in Savannah, Georgia. Many decisions had to be made including journal design, structure, and policies and procedures. We published our inaugural issue in Fall, 2015 featuring invited articles from well-known individuals committed to promoting the well-being of all youth. Three more issues followed culminating in our Spring, 2017 themed issue focused on Students and Schools in Poverty.

Unfortunately, life sometimes gets in the way, and plans go awry. As I write this letter, the journal is returning from an unplanned hiatus. We are a small scale operation and professional and personal demands have made it very difficult for me to devote my full attention to the journal. However, with the publication of this Fall, 2018 issue, I foresee a return to a regular publication schedule.

Even with no issue published since Spring, 2017, this has been our best year in terms of readership numbers. Digital Commons, the digital repository that hosts our open-access, peer-reviewed online journal, collects statistics on our publication. As of today, we are approaching 20,000 downloads of our journal articles with over 10,000 of these downloads occurring in 2018. We have an international readership with downloads in 147 countries. Countries outside the U.S. with 100+ article downloads include the United Kingdom, Canada, Philippines, South Africa, India, Australia, Indonesia, France, and Kenya. Some of our most popular articles published to date include those from the poverty-themed issue with over 1000 downloads each.

This success is not ours alone. Many thanks are due to the authors, reviewers, editorial board, and Digital Commons staff. A special thank you is issued to those individuals who have waited patiently for their manuscripts to be reviewed for possible publication. We are still working our way through all of the current submissions and are committed to providing a decision to you as soon as possible.

We want this journal to be relevant to those who work directly with youth, especially youth considered vulnerable or at risk. To ensure the continued success of the journal, we ask that our readers continue to submit manuscripts for publication consideration. We welcome ideas for article topics and journal themes and seek your input regarding interview subjects and book reviews. Also, we have a real need for manuscript reviewers in the areas of school counseling, school psychology, social work, juvenile justice, literacy, and physical health and wellness. To submit your ideas and questions or to volunteer as a reviewer, you can contact me at nyarjournal@georgiasouthern.edu.

Our current journal issue represents the diversity of conditions facing youth and their schools, families, and communities and offers strategies and recommendations for how to address these. Rachel Harris and Charles Hodges describe some of the educational inequities and barriers facing rural schools and students with an emphasis on STEM education, and Kavin Ming provides research and practical resources on oral reading fluency strategies for struggling adolescent readers. Linda Ann McCall explains mind/brain-based teaching and learning and shares how this influenced her classroom instruction of youth living in poverty. Christina Gipson and colleagues share the results of a sport intervention program designed to promote healthy lifestyle choices and social responsibility for Boys and Girls Club members. Wendy Chambers chronicles her collaboration with a Title I elementary school that focused on providing students meaningful experiences in nature via photography-related activities. Finally, Amber Moore presents her original poem inspired by a case study of a gifted youth who faced much adversity and trauma.

Thanks again for being a reader of and/or contributor to our journal. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year for both you and the youth you serve!

Sincerely,

Cordelia D. Zinskie, Chief Editor
National Youth-At-Risk Journal