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Happy New Year!

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Abstract

Letter from the Editors- Updates about the journal

Keywords

letter

Happy New Year!

As we ring in the new year, we want to express our gratitude to you – the NYAR community.

We come together from a variety of fields and disciplines to promote the well-being of all youth and in process forge relationships that sustain us as we serve and celebrate young people. Thank you for the work you do and for sharing your passion and expertise with us.

Over the years, we have had many academic discussions about the deficit connotations of the term “at-risk” and the need for an asset-based perspective. These discussions have not yielded any changes until now. Gathering suggestions from our academic colleagues, the broader NYAR community and youth, our goal is to rename both the conference and the journal in a way that neither sugarcoats social and structural inequities nor denies the power and agency of the young people we work with and serve. The new name for the NYAR conference and journal will be announced in March at this year’s virtual conference.

The first issue of the newly named journal will be a themed issue focused on youth leadership. The young people we met at the Deep Center refused to be labeled ‘at-risk’ demanding that we recognize the agency and brilliance they embody despite the economic, social and personal hardships they face. Let us begin 2021 with a focus on youth as advocates for change and actors in their own lives. Manuscripts for the inaugural issue should be submitted by April 1st. 2021.

Enjoy this issue of the journal!

Sincerely,
Alisa Leckie
Conference Co-Chair

Taylor Norman
Conference Co-Chair

Michelle Riedel
Journal Editor

