



## Editor's Opening Statement

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**(George Washington)**...Pick up a pen, start writing

I wanna talk about what I have learned  
The hard won wisdom I have earned

**(Alexander Hamilton)** As far as the people are concerned

You have to serve, you could continue to serve...

Lin-Manuel Miranda (2015), *Hamilton*, Act 2 Song 9

It is quite an honor to introduce myself to readers, as the new editor-in-chief of *The Urban Review (TUR)*. I thank sincerely the esteemed former Editors-in-chief, Dr. George Noblit and Dr. William “Bill” Pink, for welcoming and supporting my editorship through an eloquent “Editors’ Parting Statement” (Noblit and Pink 2018, p. 1). Upon reading their parting statement, I stand conflicted in that time of life, where I thoroughly empathize with Hamilton’s response to a retiring Washington. As far as I am concerned, George and Bill could continue to serve today, especially as the journal reaches new audiences with citations in other highly reputable periodicals, like the *Educational Researcher*. I respect Washington’s message to Hamilton, and how like Washington, George and Bill seem to advise readers: “to pick up a pen, start writing I wanna talk about what I have learned the hard won wisdom I have earned” (Miranda and McCarter 2016, p. 209). Moreover, the parting statement represents a quintessential message that familiar readers have come to expect from George and Bill; reflecting sincerity, struggle, history, humility, and hope. Yet, I also respect their decision to close their tenure as editors of the journal, and I plan to draw from that wisdom when the time for the end of my tenure draws near. I wish George and Bill the highest quality of life, as they pursue other responsibilities in retirement from the academy.

Currently, *TUR* sits firmly among the top three urban education journals in our field. Needless to say, I cannot act alone as the editor of the journal to keep this important seat reserved in large part by George and Bill. Indeed, there are at least four groups of people to acknowledge for playing an integral role in the vitality of

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the journal. First, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Editorial Board. Second, I thank the many scholars who serve currently as invaluable anonymous reviewers for the journal. Third, I want to thank Jolanda Voogd and Helen van der Stelt at the center office of Springer in the Netherlands; Sathish Srinivasan the Coordinator of the Journals Editorial Office in India; and Nandhini Pesala, the Production Editor for Springer in New York, NY. Fourth, I am truly grateful for the opportunity from Springer to develop a new leadership team structure to maintain the integrity and efficiency of our process for blind peer review. I wish to thank the following inaugural leadership team members referenced affectionately as, Team-*TUR*:

**Associate Editors** (a) Dr. Juan Carrillo, (b) Dr. Daniella Cook, (c) Dr. James Martinez, and (d) Dr. Dana Thompson-Dorsey;

**Managing Editors** (a) Jessica Benton, (b) Danny Gibboney, and (c) Cortland Gilliam.

The “hard won wisdom... earned” by George and Bill inspires Team-*TUR*’s three integral goals (Miranda and McCarter 2016, p. 209):

**Goal 1:** Maintain the journal as a reputable peer-reviewed publication for “... an open and accessible conversation about the outcome of urban school practices and theorizing about alternative conceptions to normative or take-for-granted assumptions” (Noblit and Pink 2018, p. 1).

**Goal 2:** Maintain the journal as a reputable peer-reviewed publication for the work necessary “...to ensure that every student has access to an equitable education regardless of their...” diverse social identity groupings (Noblit and Pink 2018, p. 1).

**Goal 3:** Maintain the journal as a reputable peer-reviewed publication to highlight “scholarship and debate about the most cutting-edge issues as they emerge...” in urban education (Noblit and Pink 2018, p. 1).

Public education and urban schools remain as contested spaces, both in the U.S. and globally. I am confident with our new editorial team that the journal shall remain relevant by highlighting (inter)national dialogues, while approaching historical and contemporary urban issues with clear, transparent, and critically reflexive lenses.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sherick Hughes, Professor of Education, Director of the Interpretive Research Suite & Carter Qualitative Thought Lab, Co-Director of the Graduate Certificate in Qualitative Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## References

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- Noblit, G. W., & Pink, W. (2018). Editors’ parting statement. *The Urban Review*, 50(1), 1–2.