

Editors' Introduction:
Special Retrospective Issue of the
Florida Journal of Educational Research

The editorial team for the *Florida Journal of Educational Research* is pleased to present the 1999 retrospective volume of the journal. Although this issue is published out of sequence (following Volume 40, the 2000 issue of the journal), the production of the 1999 volume provides the completion of 40 years of publication. This retrospective issue comprises three papers that were presented at past FERA annual conferences, but not previously published in professional journals.

It is most fitting that an oral history of our organization serves as the lead paper in this volume. This manuscript, by Conley and Hall, provides a lucid and thorough documentation of the roots of FERA, as related by its founding members. The details of this paper, captured in the transcripts of conversations, provides entertaining reading while illustrating the depth of description provided through the oral history approach to inquiry.

The second paper (by Hogarty, Conley and Kromrey) provides a detailed report of the development and validation of a self-report instrument designed to measure the beliefs and practices of researchers. In addition to making available an instrument with practical applications for those involved in the teaching of research, this manuscript illustrates traditional techniques of instrument development, validation and reliability estimation.

Finally, Wright, Barron and Kromrey present an evaluation study of a website designed to help teachers prepare their students for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. This paper describes both the technical design of the website and the substantial activities undertaken to secure evidence of its utility in the field and suggestions for improvements.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue of *FJER* and that you will find the papers enlightening and provocative. In our efforts to contain costs of production and distribution, this will be the last printed edition of *FJER*, providing an uninterrupted 40 years of our journal. However, the journal will continue as a peer-reviewed publication, serving as an outlet for the dissemination of scholarly inquiry of interest to educators in Florida. Future volumes of the journal will be available online through the FERA website.

Please feel free to contact us with ideas or questions about the journal. We look forward to continuing our productive work with educational scholars and researchers in Florida.