



From the Editor

This 2016 presidential election season has been difficult for Americans to watch and participate in with its seemingly endless supply of insults squeezing out other substance in the rhetorical toolkits of both major party candidates. It is no wonder that the *Washington Post* concluded the election season was simply deplorable.

For our country to operate at its potential, we must build partnerships across partisan lines, between differing worldviews, and among diverse populations. Though we have had few, if any, examples of such overtures among those running for the highest elected office in our country, we do have plenty of more positive examples, role models, and programs operating in communities across the country as detailed in the articles and book reviews in this issue of *Partnerships*.

The authors here pay close attention to the details that provide opportunities for growth and development in communities as explained in their research and case studies. The articles detail, too, how faculty members benefit by reflecting upon pedagogical practice to ensure strong campus-community partnerships. The book reviewers provide insight and commentary on resources valuable for faculty and staff engaged in this most challenging work. In both domestic and international arenas, our featured scholars recognize that dialogue, problem solving, and collaborative goal setting set the stage for ethical and effective high-impact programs.

New to our journal team with this issue are editorial assistants Nancy Maingi and Vincent Russell, graduate students at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, who have been working behind the scenes to manage the flow and processes of production for *Partnerships*.

In closing, scholars writing about civic engagement are dedicated to addressing our country's most pressing problems so that we may contribute to the wellbeing of our communities. With that in mind, we invite whoever is elected the next U.S. President to join us in that commitment so that together we may all pursue America's hallmark promises of justice and equality for all. Like the articles in this issue, we will continue to advocate in the public sphere for strong partnerships, even when conflict exists between us, to achieve what none of us can do as well alone.

Spoma Jovanovic, PhD
Editor