

Dear Readers,

Thank you for reading the inaugural issue of the Iris Journal of Scholarship. We are excited to share this finished product with you. This inaugural issue is the fruit of the vision, collaboration, and passion of many diverse students, faculty, and staff at Peabody College. Its pages contain the thought products of graduate and professional students in the many programs housed within the category of Education and Human Development. These articles represent the ideas of the individuals who are passionate about making positive change in their communities. We believe that the various forms of scholarship within these pages are immensely valuable and worth celebrating and sharing. In fact, it was this belief that inspired us to establish this Journal.

This project began a little over a year ago when we expressed a desire to read the work of other students, have a deeper understanding of the variety of research done on Peabody's campus, and have an avenue to present our own academic projects. We were surprised that there was not already a venue within the school for us to present the projects we were working to a wider audience. We wanted that to change, and thus the Iris Journal of Scholarship took root.

During this past year, it has grown. It was truly a campus-wide effort, and we are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed to this publication—from the faculty and staff from the Dean's office and library who mentored and advised us, to the authors who trusted us to share their work with the Vanderbilt and Peabody communities, to our members who did the work to make this vision a reality. These are the individuals who are passionate about improving classrooms, communities, and organizations here and around the world, and the works in this volume are the products of their curiosity and passion.

The mission of the journal is to collect, review, and disseminate the scholarly work of Peabody College's graduate and professional students. Our hope, however, is

that the journal will do so much more. We hope that this journal will act as a ground for academic exploration so that students can cultivate their study of education and human development alongside their peers. We hope that this journal will become a representation of the distinctive nature of this college. And we hope that this journal will expand, shift, and change to become something not previously imagined.

In this issue, there are articles spanning topics from professional networking to case studies on higher education to reviews of the literature on land use by international organizations. This issue is a glimpse into the breadth of work that happens at Peabody College. These articles are a celebration of the variety of exceptional work that happens here.

It's time that work is seen.

Sincerely,

The LEAD Team for the Iris Journal of Scholarship,

Catherine Cypert  
Kelly Johnson  
Francisco Santelli  
Colby Woods