

Editorial

Dear Readers,

We would like to welcome you to our special January edition Volume 18, Issue 5. We wish all of our readers, authors, and reviewers a very happy and prosperous 2018. In this edition, we will cover a variety of topics ranging from piquing middle school student interest, to the effectiveness of an exit exam for undergraduates.

To begin this issue, authors Jeremy Vaughn Ernst, Thomas O. Williams, Aaron C. Clark, Daniel P. Kelly, and Kevin Sutton conducted a study regarding the relationship between teacher influence over the classroom to teacher retention. The outcome of this studied can be read in their article, "K-12 STEM Educator Autonomy: An Investigation of School Influence and Classroom Control."

The next article shifts from teacher influence to retaining the middle school student's interest through animal-based learning. Author Megan K. Mueller studies this in her article, "Engagement in Science and Engineering through Animal-Based Curricula."

Looking to high school, authors Joanita Mary Kant, Suzette R. Burckhard, and Richard T. Meyers sought to link culturally relevant Native American activities to STEAM among girls. The results of this study can be read in, "Engaging High School Girls in Native American Culturally Responsive STEAM Activities."

Authors Lawretta C. Ononye and Sabel Bong focused their attention on the effectiveness of a scholarship program for underrepresented women and minority groups. Their results are found in, "The Study of the Effectiveness of Scholarship Grant Program on Low-Income Engineering Technology Students."

The final article is by Graham Thomas and Shahryar Darayan, focusing on the effectiveness of a final exit examination for seniors. Their study and results can be read in, "Electronic Engineering Technology Program Exit Examination as an ABET and Self-Assessment Tool."

We would like to welcome the following three new board members of our international advisory board: Stephanie G. Adams, dean of Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology at Old Dominion University; Monica Fox, professor and chair of the Department of Engineering Education at Ohio State University; Joseph Rencis, dean of Engineering and professor of Mechanical Engineering at Cal Poly, Pamaona, California We thank them for accepting our invitation to serve on the board. We look forward to their valuable contributions to our journal.

In closing, I invite you to share any comments via email at jstemed@gmail.com. In addition, if you would like to consider our journal for publishing your research, feel free to submit manuscripts at jstem.org. We hope you enjoy this edition!

P.K. Raju
Editor-in-Chief