Editors’ Note
Journal of the Effective Schools Project
“Enhancing Teaching and Learning with Innovative Instruction"

Dear Readers,

Instruction with the student first in mind is the foundation of all teaching. Teachers sharing instructional intervention ideas in relation to challenges in the classroom benefit us all. The articles in volume XXIII of JESP serve as reminders of our purpose and passion to seek out the best instructional interventions to meet our students’ needs.

The cover of this edition presents a champion for public schools, John Kuhn. A few years ago, he stood on the Texas capitol steps with a letter from the Alamo. We are proud to share his story and ideas. John Kuhn calls to us all, “Defend Public Education!”

We have two Tarleton Stars recognized in this volume of JESP. We are proud of them. Look for Michelle Oney Spradley and Sarah Titus in the Tarleton Stars section. They are Tarleton teachers who are the finest examples of the science and art of teaching. Read their accomplishments and contributions to our profession.

In the Student Service and Research section, one of our Tarleton Stars, Sarah Titus, shares her experiences as a student researcher at Tarleton State University. She served with several professors as a fellow researcher. As a new teacher, Mrs. Titus uses the skills learned from these experiences to improve her teaching. She uses data to make decisions and represents the professional nature of the teaching profession well. We are excited to see Sarah join the teaching profession. Soon we will be learning from her and her experiences as an action based researcher who seeks to meet the diverse needs of the students and families she serves.

The Book Shelf by Dr. Miller-Levy continues to be a favorite. Please visit her review of books concerning our theme for the 2016 journal—Enhancing Teaching and Learning with Innovative Instruction. Dr. Miller-Levy addresses the need for teachers to view students with a GROWTH MINDSET. The selections she has gathered may serve as a professional reading text-set relating growth and using students’ strengths to overcome challenges.

The Journal of the Effective Schools Project (JESP) is also online. Readers are able to view all past articles (1992 to present) at JESP’s website http://thejesp.org/index.php/jesp/issue/archive or http://www.tarleton.edu/esp/Journal/index.html. Once there, please click on the link—“View Copies of the Journal of the Effective Schools Project”. Also, please consider submitting a manuscript to JESP. Please visit our website site for authors and reviewers at http://thejesp.org.

This issue will be my last issue as editor of JESP. Since 2006, I have enjoyed my time as assistant editor, co-editor, and finally executive editor. I have learned much about education and the amazing educators in our profession who serve students with energy and passion. Thank you Dr. Larmer and Dr. Pam Winn for allowing me this wonderful opportunity. I am better for it. I will begin a new role at Tarleton State University. Change is wonderful, but ESP and my work with teachers has been enriching and life changing.

The articles included in this volume (XXIII—Enhancing Teaching and Learning with Innovative Instruction) provide ideas to overcome the challenges teachers face daily in their classrooms. The challenges always increase, and no one has all the answers to all the challenges teachers encounter. However, with this volume of JESP, we hope to provide ideas and answers to a few challenges. Together we are better. If you find an article as helpful or want more information from the authors, please email us and tell us about your experiences or needs (editor@thejesp.org).

Sincerely,

James E. Gentry, Ed.D. Editor (2006-2016)
Journal of the Effective Schools Project
Tarleton State University