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## Spring 2012 Georgia Journal of Public Policy - Introduction

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## Spring 2012 Georgia Journal of Public Policy Introduction

### *Letter from the Editor*

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This is the second volume of the annual Georgia Journal of Public Policy, and as the editor I would like to use these introductory comments to discuss three things. First, I am happy to report on how the journal's first issue performed in terms of readership. Second, I will introduce a new section of the journal that features undergraduate student research on policy in Georgia. Finally, I will discuss future plans for the journal.

The Georgia Journal of Public Policy was launched with relatively little fanfare, as a project of the Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University. The idea was to provide a forum for research on governance and politics in Georgia—a subject important to local scholars, students in the state's many Public Administration programs, and practitioners working in the state. Publicity consisted of a single advertisement/call for submissions in the program of the 2009 Georgia Political Science Association meeting. The first issue, published in the Spring of 2011, consisted of papers written by scholars both within and outside of Georgia, and a report outlining the latest data on drug use in the state put together by researchers at the Burruss Institute.

The suspicion that there was an audience for this kind of research was confirmed by the statistics compiled by the Berkeley Electronic Press, which hosts the journal on its electronic publication platform. As of June 15, 2012, articles published in volume 1 have been downloaded 868 times. This exceeds the amount of attention I would have predicted in March of 2011, as the journal was released. Clearly, the work that has gone into organizing a system of processing manuscript submissions, managing the anonymous refereeing process, and editing the final articles have been well worth the effort. An audience for academic work on government and politics in Georgia exists, and is being served by the journal. Hopefully future evaluations of the journal's impact will indicate that work being published in the GJPP is being used in classrooms, incorporated into student research papers, and cited by academics and others in publications and other outlets for discussion of governance and politics. The GJPP is certainly off to a great start.

And we are already innovating and adapting the journal. In this issue we are introducing a "Policy Notes" section containing short analyses of policy issues in Georgia. These notes are based on student research, and the two notes in this volume are created in collaboration with research associates at the Burruss Institute. The two papers published this year are both from students at Kennesaw State, but we hope that students around the state (and perhaps even around the country) will submit Georgia-based policy analyses to this special section in the future. The Policy Notes Editor is Dr. William Gillespie, Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, at Kennesaw State.

Finally, this is the second volume of the GJPP that is edited by me, Richard N. Engstrom. I am enjoying the variety of manuscripts that are submitted to the journal, and the contacts that the editorship has allowed me to make with scholars across the state. I would like to edit the third

(2013) edition of the journal, and then pass it on to a new editor who could then serve a three-year term. Ideally, this person would be someone who works on policy issues in Georgia, and who is interested in working to continue to increase the influence and prominence of the journal both within and outside of the state of Georgia. The Burruss Institute would still manage the practical details of the publication process (receiving submissions, facilitating communication with authors and reviewers, copy editing, and the electronic publication process), leaving the editorial decisions to the new editor.

If anyone is interested in this opportunity, please contact the journal at [gjpp@kennesaw.edu](mailto:gjpp@kennesaw.edu). I look forward to handing the journal off to an individual or team who is interested in furthering its success. The process of editing a journal is educational and rewarding, and I encourage academics across the state to consider serving the discipline as the editor of the GJPP.

As I hope this introduction makes clear, the GJPP has had a great deal of early success, and its prospects are bright. We are innovating as we grow, and are planning for future contributions to the governance and policy discussion in Georgia. I hope you find the current volume useful, and that you consider the GJPP in your teaching, research and service endeavors.

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