Editor's Introduction

Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education is a refereed journal concerned with publishing scholarly and relevant articles on continuing education, professional development, and training in the field of social welfare. The aims of the journal are to advance the science of professional development and continuing social work education, to foster understanding among educators, practitioners, and researchers, and to promote discussion that represents a broad spectrum of interests in the field. The opinions expressed in this journal are solely those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policy positions of The University of Texas at Austin’s School of Social Work or its Center for Social Work Research.

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Editor's Introduction

Seymour J. Rosenthal, MSSW

On the first of May, President Bush announced that the hostilities in Iraq are coming to a close. The consequences of these actions, as with all major events in US history, are unclear—their implications will be felt not only here, but worldwide. As with other parts of the world, we are beginning to recognize that there are and will be increasing constraints to the growth of positive social and economic policies. Economic surplus is no longer part of the lexicon of government planners; deficits are our current reality. We know the consequences of such deficits—the concept “last hired, first fired” threatens the stability of much needed social programs.

We will be called upon to become increasingly creative in responding to the realities of economic scarcity. We hope that as new strategies emerge that our journal will continue to be a focal point of discussion. The variety of articles in this issue represent both the enrichment of traditional approaches and the projection of novel methodologies. Given the turmoil of modern life, as countries are born or diminished, as new roles emerge, our Journal will be receptive to these changing patterns. We welcome a broader range of perspectives, informed by both first-hand experiences and scholarly research, that will lead to a more complete understanding of how we as practitioners and academicians can better respond to the challenges and opportunities around us.

In the near future, we intend to publish a special issue of the journal addressing the findings of the Southern Regional Quality Improvement Center. This is a Children’s Bureau funded research and development project involving five states—Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas. This series of articles will cover issues related to programmatic and policy recommendations impacting the child welfare system.

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