

EXPERIENCE

PRACTICE + THEORY



—
SPRING
2017

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends and Colleagues —

Is this publication for you?

Do you feel that experiential learning could help us to *do better* and *accomplish more* for our students, institutions, and communities? Are you frustrated by some of the condemnations of higher education, particularly because you share some of the same criticisms? Do you believe that our experiential learning efforts are an answer to those criticisms?

If yes, this publication may be for you.

Are you inspired by the thought of making a difference in the world through experiential learning? Are you energized by working with students and educational partners? Is encouraging young people to stake a claim in their futures important to you?

Are you often made uneasy by the “messiness” that comes with experiential learning, or do you thrive in that messiness? Are you the *thinking* type that delights in the clashing of ideas? Or, are you the *hands-on* type that relishes in the practical application of education?

Are you an experiential learning scholar, a practitioner, or both? Are you new to the world of experiential learning, or are you a well-known leader in the field? Are you an expert in a specific form, like cooperative education or service learning, or are you a novice looking for ideas, resources, and an academic community to belong to? Are you a faculty member at a small, private college, or are you a staff person

or administrator at a major university? Do you manage a small not-for-profit organization, or are you the CEO of a Fortune 500 company?

If you find yourself nodding yes to any of these questions, this publication is for you.

Over one year ago, we began building a periodical that would speak with the many and diverse voices in the often eclectic and fragmented world of experiential learning. We surveyed hundreds of people and analyzed dozens of existing publications. We consulted with many tried-and-true experts, but we also listened to the newcomers, critics, and naysayers.

What did we come up with? This publication.

And it is for you.

Experience Magazine: Practice and Theory features academic and practitioner submissions that cover program highlights, field trends, how-to articles, and relevant information and resources for those in the field. The audience for this publication reflects the diverse global field of experiential learning and will provide evidenced-based and practitioner-oriented resources for a wide array of experiential learning stakeholders.

Experience Magazine: Practice and Theory will be published twice per year and will cover several types of experiential learning programming, including Cooperative Education, Service Learning, Internships, Undergraduate Research and Action Research, Study Abroad and International Experiential Learning, Student Teaching, Clinicals and Practicums, Performances and Exhibitions, and more.

You will hear from students and from teachers.

You will hear from practitioners and you will hear from scholars. You will hear from employers and educational partners. You will hear from stakeholders that work local and from those that work on the global stage.

In this magazine, you will read about specific types of experiential learning and explore unique program hybrids. You will be provided with some important answers and be asked some vital questions. Your work will be celebrated here, but it will also be interrogated at times. You will find yourself often thinking, “yes, I agree with that,” just as you will sometimes find yourself challenged by the things written. You will find research that supports your practices as well as pieces that challenge your current practices.

We have set-out to produce a publication that is rich and accessible. We have worked towards reducing the divide between teachers and

learners and between campuses and communities. We have strived to dissolve the false dichotomy between practice and theory, and we have championed traditional forms of experiential learning while also spotlighting new and innovative forms.

Why did we do this? Because of you.

Our hope, however, is that *Experience Magazine: Practice and Theory* is more than just a publication **for you**. We hope, in fact, that over the next several years that you will hear your own voice within these pages. After all, this ever-evolving and collectively-authored story of experiential learning is your story, and it should be told **by you**.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Sharp, Editor

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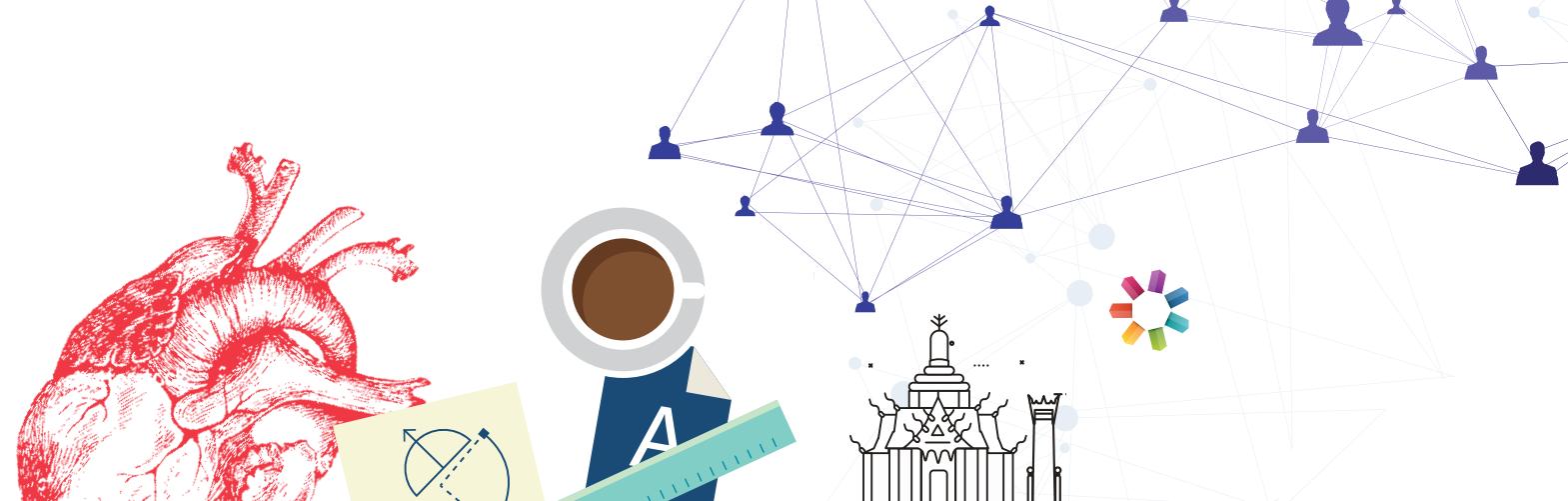
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Experience Magazine Sponsored by
ACT Center for Equity in Learning
<http://equityinlearning.act.org/>

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