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Introduction to the Issue

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The 2018 Midwest Public Affairs Conference (MPAC) is approaching soon. The theme for this year's conference is *Adapting Public Service to an Age of Technological Change*. With this theme, we seek to understand the future of public service—a future that, undoubtedly, will demand new forms of professional competence from its managers. We're certain that the research and discussions at the 2018 MPAC conference will be fruitful; and, we hope that it will help us all to better understand the technological advances and changes taking place within public service organizations (including nonprofits). Indeed, from algorithmic mechanization, to big data, to block chain, and machine learning there is a wide range of innovations taking place in the public sector that will fundamentally reshape society in the years to come.

Whether you plan to attend the MPAC conference or not, we encourage you to submit your best work to *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs* (JPNA). JPNA provides a rigorous open-source outlet for disseminating high quality research from diverse theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary backgrounds that address topics related to the affairs and management of public and nonprofit organizations.

As a new journal, we have undergone a number of “firsts” in the past several years. With the first issue in volume 4, we are taking another first: the handing of the editorial reigns to a new editorial team (McDougle & McDonald, 2018). In this first issue of the *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs* under the new editorial reigns, we proud to publish three new pieces of research which focus on nonprofit management. In the first piece, Andersson (2018) explores the start-up funding intentions of nonprofit entrepreneurs. Although securing financial resources is not the only step in establishing a nonprofit organization, it is a critical step. Using a survey of 103 nascence nonprofit entrepreneurs, Andersson shows that funding intentions are dynamic. That is, they draw on multiple sources for the funding but they also alter the funding structure of nonprofits as they age.

Next, Hatcher and Hammond (2018) answer the question of why communities use nonprofits to manage their economic development. To answer this question, they utilize the 2014 economic development survey from the International City/County Management Association. The findings suggest that the decision to rely on a nonprofit is tied to the size of the city such that smaller cities are more likely to utilize them. They also conclude that the decision to use a nonprofit influences the development tools that the community uses. In the last research article of this issue, Prentice and Brudney (2018) reconsider the organizations that support nonprofit activity. This is accomplished by developing a novel typology that offers new insight into their goals and

functions. For the practitioner, the piece provides a series of lessons on the management and leadership of these organizations.

In our “Survey Essays” section, we are pleased to published Dubnick’s (2018) epic, “Demons, Spirits, and Elephants: Reflections on the Failure of Public Administration.” Originally written in 1999, the essay has not been previously published due to its length. Thanks to the digital platform of the journal, we are able to bring this piece to press in its entirety. In conjunction the essays publication, we are happy to publish two commentaries that discuss the relevancy of Dubnick’s piece to the field today. McDonald (2018) provides the second commentary, in which he discusses the future of public administration in context of Dubnick’s criticisms. McDonald’s commentary focuses how a look at the history of the field can help resolve the crisis with which the field struggles. The second is commentary is presented by Feiock (2018). In Feiock’s commentary, he reflects on his experience watching the first presentation of Dubnick’s paper at the annual conference of the American Political Science Association in 1999.

The issue is completed with two book reviews. In the first review, Jacob (2018) reviews Herrington J. Bryce’s book *Nonprofits as Policy Solutions to the Burden of Government*. In the review, Jacob discusses the use of the text as a guidebook for practitioners seeking to develop sustainable nonprofit organizations. In the second review, Miller (2018) provides a review of *Managing Public and Nonprofit Organizations: Stories of Success and Failure* by Charles Coe. In his review, Miller discusses Coe’s use of stories to demonstrate the principles that are the foundation of public administration and the utility of the book in the learning process.

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