

Editor's Note

Heather A. Johnston

The United States is undergoing an economic, social, and political revolution. The nature and role of government is changing. This edition of *Policy Perspectives* provides the reader with an array of topics which are at the forefront of contemporary policy discussions. Danielle Noll considers the best way to provide care for HIV/AIDS patients as the public health care system moves toward managed care. Tim Rosado takes a hard look at the use of trust funds as a federal budgeting tool. In this election year, Laura Hamilton examines the underlying problems with campaign finance and recent proposals for reform. Anson Kaye analyzes recent Supreme Court cases which affect public administrators.

Several articles focus on the changing relationship between the federal government and the states. Sue MacBride looks at a new model for government-industry partnership, focusing on the Advanced Technology Project at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Mercedes Viana proposes increasing the role of the federal government in education.

The provocative topic of federal-state relations is further explored by our two guest authors. Governor Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin provides the state perspective on devolution, focusing on the Medicaid program. Representing the federal perspective, Senator Harry Reid of Nevada stresses the need for a strong federal presence in order to provide security for all Americans. I would like to thank Rod Hise and Kara Kreisher for their invaluable help in providing the articles to *Policy Perspectives*.

A group of policy professionals in Washington and around the country were asked to serve as peer reviewers for the manuscripts that became the finished articles in this journal. Their ability to spot an analytical weakness or flaw in logic has surely saved us from committing several embar-

assing mistakes in these pages. *Policy Perspectives* is indebted to these experts.

A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to Professor Jill Kasle, whose enthusiasm, expertise, and support are unmatched. Thank you to Stephen Liftman for taking on the tremendous task of Managing Editor. I am also grateful to last year's Editor in Chief, Philip Bransford, for his willingness to give freely of his time and experience.

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