

EDITOR'S NOTE

By Katherine J. France

In the fall of 2004, the 9/11 Commission released its findings about what was known, what was done, and what could have been done regarding the terrorist attacks committed on September 11, 2001. One of the significant themes presented in its report is the need for imagination and insight on the part of decision-makers at all levels of government. To enable this sort of forward-looking policy making, members of the policy world must think creatively, challenge traditional conceptions of policy problems and solutions, and work to anticipate the problems that will arise in the future. This, it seems to me, is one of the crucial tasks facing those that make, evaluate, and analyze public policy—they must be able to “think outside the box,” encourage decision-makers to question their own perspectives, and enlist their imaginations when examining policy problems and proposing solutions. This edition of *Policy Perspectives* is dedicated to those values.

Our interview with Governor Mark R. Warner of Virginia highlights the importance of innovative thinking in successful government management as he reflects on his tenure as Governor of the state. Governor Warner provides insightful commentary on the experiences of the state of Virginia and the reasons the state has been able to set itself apart as a leader in government performance. He also provides valuable guidance to those of us who have chosen to pursue careers in public service, challenging us to think carefully and critically, to work in a genuine and unbiased manner to improve the well-being of our communities and our country, and to remain committed to bringing creative and innovative ideas to the world of government and policy.

Each of the authors published in this volume of *Policy Perspectives* has risen to that challenge. Karen Melanson moves beyond classical trade theory, asking for a more refined vision of international trade. She calls on us to consider the claim that traditional, accepted thinking about the purpose and effects of international trade fails to acknowledge and appreciate the experiences of women in the global marketplace. Vidhya Ananthakrishnan examines the existing finance mechanisms by which New York schools are funded, evaluates the effectiveness of these practices, and offers guidance about the crucial factors to consider as the state redesigns its system of school financing. Caleb Andrew Temple explores one of the most provocative and controversial issues in American politics today: same-sex marriage. He provides a valuable discussion tracing the emergence of this topic as a critical political and legal issue and examines some of the major policy questions likely to emerge as the debate rages on. Finally, Kenneth Coggeshall, Alexandra Michael, Shweta Bhatnagar, and Patricia Moynihan report the results of an empirical analysis examining the quality of websites designed and administered by 2004 presidential candidates and their campaign staff as they courted potential voters. While their results do not offer conclusive evidence that the Internet is an effective tool for fostering civic participation on the part of voters, the authors do lay the foundation for groundbreaking work examining the causal connections between Internet-based resources and the state of civic engagement in America.

I would like to commend all of our authors for their eagerness to challenge us with their provocative and insightful views. The authors dedicated countless hours

to writing and revising their manuscripts before arriving at the articles presented in this volume. They deserve great praise for their thorough research, critical analysis, and compelling presentation.

While each of these innovative articles was originally developed by individual authors, the final results stem not only from our authors' insights but also from significant collaboration with our dedicated, inquisitive, and analytically-minded editorial staff. I would first like to thank both Elizabeth Koprowski, Managing Editor, and Professor Jill Kasle, Faculty Advisor, for their dedication and consistent commitment to excellence. Elizabeth was an invaluable collaborator at every stage of the editorial process and deserves unending praise for her determination and thoughtfulness. Not only was she a reliable partner in this endeavor, she also was a focused leader helping us to navigate the challenges of layout and design for this year's publication.

Professor Kasle consistently provided our editorial staff with patient, careful and, constructive guidance on technical, logistical, and editorial matters. She provided formative advice on all aspects of the editorial process and her insight was critical as we faced the challenge of writing and editing a professional journal.

Next, I would like to applaud our Associate Editors—Jennifer Auer, Katie Joyce, Lori Metcalf, and Krystyn Schmerbeck—who worked tirelessly with our authors to hone arguments, polish language, and deliver the high-caliber writing contained in this volume. Additionally, our Technical Editors—Gabriel Gershowitz and Tanya Qadir—not only contributed to the task of revising the content of our articles but they also worked long hours on the detail-oriented and often tedious tasks of fact-checking and citation verification.

We also were fortunate this year to have the continued dedication of the faculty at the School of Public Policy and Public Administration. Special thanks goes to William Adams, Lori Brainard, Jennifer Brinkerhoff, Cynthia Harrison, Donna Infeld, Phillip Joyce, Jed Kee,

Yas Nakib, and Kathryn Newcomer, all of whom provided us with invaluable guidance throughout the publication process this year.

Finally, I would like to thank my family and friends who supported me with patience and good humor throughout this exciting process. Without their loyal and thoughtful guidance, I am quite sure that this process would not have proceeded as smoothly as it did.

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Editor-in-Chief

