

Introduction from the Office of Societal Impact

The Office of Societal Impact, within the Office of Research, Innovation, and Impact, is pleased to continue providing the Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies (AJIS) with financial and staff support. This journal reflects the priorities of our office to expand access to undergraduate research opportunities and showcase the outstanding research being conducted by undergraduates across the University of Arizona campus.

This support has allowed for the expansion of the editorial team for AJIS. This year's record number of submissions speaks to the growth the journal has experienced as a result of a dedicated team of editors.

Articles published in this issue of the journal explore experiences of historically marginalized groups and consider what steps can be taken to create culturally responsive resources and support for a diverse community. Many of these articles seek to understand the experiences of marginalized communities and their responses to challenges, trauma, and barriers to access.

As a land-grant, American Indian and Alaska Native-Serving, and Hispanic Serving Institution, the University of Arizona serves a diverse community of students. As such, we have a responsibility to advocate for marginalized communities and create equitable, accessible opportunities and spaces for all populations.

Our intention in supporting this journal is to provide a platform that showcases important undergraduate work and explores complex, interdisciplinary topics. This was the first year that a showcase event was organized for authors to present their research in a public forum.

Please join us as we congratulate this editorial team on their incredible work on the tenth edition of the journal. We especially want to acknowledge Heather Jensen, Editor-in-Chief, who spearheaded new initiatives for AJIS editors and opportunities for this year's authors.

We want to thank the authors for sharing their insights through their work. For any graduating authors and editors, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Sincerely,



Courtney Leligdon | she, her, hers
Undergraduate Research Coordinator



Kimberly Sierra-Cajas | she, her, hers
Director, Undergraduate Research & Inquiry



RESEARCH, INNOVATION & IMPACT
Societal Impact