

Introduction to a Special Section on Rural Development

The co-editors

In this issue of *The Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy* we are pleased to provide a special selection of papers on rural development policy. In this special selection we offer five articles that offer a range of ideas on national rural development policies, factors affecting rural development and a host of policy options at the local level. Particular attention is paid to the role of university researchers and educators and the impact they have had on formulating rural development policies. The papers by Ho and Shaffer focus on the state rural development councils developed under the Bush Sr. Administration and emphasize what we have learned over ten years of experience. The paper by Green looks at the increasingly important role of natural amenities in rural economic growth and development and offers a handful of ideas upon which state and local policy makers can build. Honadle offers her views on national and local policies as an evolution of diverse thinking over time. We close this selection of papers with a thought provoking piece by Cavaye on the dilemmas facing rural policy researchers and decision makers. His international perspective reveals that the issues facing rural America are not all that dissimilar from other developed nations. We hope you enjoy this special selection of papers on rural development policy.