

To the *JRAP* Audience: A Word from the Editor

I am delighted to have been appointed to a five-year term to serve the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA) as Editor of its journal, the *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy (JRAP)*. *JRAP* is a very good quality journal for academicians and practitioners alike. It is written with state-of-the-art Regional Science as its foundation and a clear interest in policy applications.

It has a history of distinguished Editors, and I shall endeavor to continue the upward movement of *JRAP* in its stature in the various professions that serve as its audience. I want to impress upon our readers and contributors that part of the quest for continuing the increase in quality will be the role of Special Issues of *JRAP*, issues that will have Guest Editors and a refereeing process. Guest Editors will arrange with the Editor for a commitment of at least half an issue and, in some cases, perhaps an entire issue. Scholars with viable projects should feel free to contact me so that we can communicate accordingly.

One of my primary concerns has been to assure that authors receive not only good quality referee reports but also prompt decisions. Thus far this year, the average turnaround period from date of submission to date of initial decision date has been about 36 days. I am very pleased with that record and plan to try and maintain it.

I have thus far added three distinguished scholars to the Board of Editors: Professor Dan Rickman of Oklahoma State University, Professor Mark Partridge of Ohio State University, and Professor Jim Payne of Illinois State University. In addition, I am happy to have the distinguished previous Editors, Dave Marcouiller and Steve Deller of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, join our Board. In addition, Russ Kashian of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater serves as an Associate Editor and Dave Sorenson of Augustana College serves as both Associate Editor and Production Editor. Along with the many distinguished returning members of our Board, *JRAP* is poised to continue to grow and prosper. I am proud to be an important contributor to that process.

Richard Cebula