

# ***Welcome: First volume and issue of the new Holistic Education Review: Education for Meaning and Social Justice***

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## **Abstract**

Holistic Education Review: Education for Meaning and Social Justice (HER) is a new publication, blending three publications: the former Holistic Education Review, the former Encounter: Education for Meaning and Social Justice, and the Holistic Educator Newsletter. The HER is an open access journal, making it widely accessible for free to researchers and practitioners all over the world. HER is an experimental “hybrid,” offering newsletter articles to the holistic community blended with peer-reviewed articles, which we hope to start weaving into the journal by the Spring, 2022 issue.

*Keywords:* Education, Meaning, Social Justice

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Welcome to the first volume and issue of the new Holistic Education Review: Education for Meaning and Social Justice, fondly called HER. While this is the birth of a new publication, it is also a continuation of a legacy of more than 30 years of scholarly writing, research, and practice in holistic education – a new blending of three publications: the former Holistic Education Review, the former Encounter: Education for Meaning and Social Justice, and the Holistic Educator Newsletter. The STORY of this journey is on our website. The new HER is an open access journal, making it widely accessible for free to researchers and practitioners all over the world. HER is an experimental “hybrid,” offering newsletter articles to the holistic community blended with peer-reviewed articles, which we hope to start weaving into the journal by the Spring, 2022 issue.

### **A participatory, process-oriented publication approach**

As your new volunteer editors, we want to share with you our vision and approach for the new HER, which is still in formation.

The mission of the Holistic Education Review is to:

- Enhance and broaden the scholarship of holistic education
- Lift up diverse and emerging voices of holistic education practice
- Connect the holistic education community

### **Vision**

We envision a holistic educational movement that is embedded in K-12 and higher education systems as a diverse and unifying force, dedicated to wellbeing and to uplifting the human spirit.

We invite you to shape that vision by joining the conversation. Some of the ways you can do that is to apply to be on the editorial review board, offer your copy editing skills and, of course, consider contributing to the journal as an author. Please see the HER website for guidelines on how to submit an article or click on this link if you wish to volunteer with the editorial and production team.

Holistic education is philosophically concerned with the process of learning as much as the product. When the process

of learning is authentic, when it is pursued with both heart and head and embraced with love and liveliness, a quality of identity and integrity will naturally manifest in the final product. Thus there is an inherent spaciousness, playfulness and beauty endemic to holistic education, as a process orientation is expected.

This holistic concept of learning through process is a metaphor for our approach to editing the new Holistic Education Review. With all our hearts, we want this first issue, and all ensuing issues of HER, to be a stellar “product,” and through that endeavor we are embracing the process. Paul, Laurel, and I agree that, perhaps selfishly, one of our first goals as editors, is to simply have fun! We greatly enjoy working with one another, and our meetings include a smattering of chatter and philosophical musings, among our task lists.

Besides enjoying one another, we have a goal of enjoying each of you, HER’s readers and authors. Holistic education is rooted in relationships, and we hope to expand our networks and deepen our relationships with holistic educators and authors.

Finally, we agreed to embrace the editorial process as a journey of learning and discovery, which means making mistakes. In all transparency, none of us have experience with editing. When asked, we courageously accepted the invitation to become editors with the notion that grace will be granted to us by our readers. One of the advantages of our “greenness” is the fresh and free approach we are taking, which we hope will yield innovative results. On the other hand, one of the disadvantages of our greenness is that the final product is not perfect. This issue is possibly sprinkled with typos and other errors, and we welcome and appreciate your mercy, as well as your willingness to point them out to us. One of the advantages of publishing digitally is we can make corrections after publication. We want this experience to be as interactive as possible, so please send us your corrections, comments, inquiries, and critical reflections!

Overall, through our process, we strive for excellence, more so than perfection. We have allowed this first issue to organically come forth through a combination of recruiting some of you to submit articles and celebrating those that were graciously sent to us, unsolicited. We expect HER to change in form and format as it emerges, and as YOU help shape it.

YOU are HER. Thank you for participating in this vibrant holistic community. We hope to enjoy learning along with you on this blessed journey.

Yours,

Renee Owen, Paul Freedman, Laurel Tien

### **Acknowledgements**

We are greatly thankful to this first issue’s authors for sharing their scholarship, experience, wisdom, and voices!

We owe a huge thank you to Haille Triboli for her extensive volunteer copy editing work.

Thank you to David Spinney for editing and proofreading the editorial.

We also want to introduce our HER Student Editor, Sarah Grulikowski, the brilliant and intrepid Senior at Southern Oregon University’s Center for Holistic Education. Finally, this first issue would not have come to fruition without the financial contributions from The Institute for Educational Studies (TIES), Transformative Learning Foundation (TLF), Antioch University, and Southern Oregon University (SOU) and the Center for Holistic Education. SOU is honored to be hosting the journal for this year with grant funding and sponsoring our student editor.