

Editor-In-Chief's Foreword

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, I am pleased to present the 2023 issue of *Rural Policy: The Research Bulletin of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania*. This year's issue includes seven articles that address a wide range of rural-focused policy research.

The first article, *Assessment and Analysis of Housing Quality and Policies in Rural Pennsylvania*, by Ying Yang, Claire Jantz, and Antonia Price, assesses housing quality and related policies and programs in rural Pennsylvania. Second, *Reversing Population Decline in Rural Pennsylvania*, by Bing Ran and Joseph Hafer, employs a novel survey to identify those individuals who are most willing to relocate to rural Pennsylvania. The third article, *Community and Economic Impact of the Pennsylvania Wilds*, authored by Susan Ryan and Paul Hettler, indicates that the Pennsylvania Wilds region is an effective place-based tourism brand, which has resulted in positive economic development for the region.

The next three articles focus on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on education. *Distance Learning and Online Coordination of Service in Pennsylvania's Rural School Districts*, by Dr. Gerald LeTendre, Dr. Peggy Schooling, Hansol Woo, Meredith Bannon, and Josh Almes, assesses the specific problems that rural school districts encountered during the pandemic and how these districts responded to those unique challenges. The next article, *Pandemic-Associated Cyber Charter Enrollments and the Impacts on Rural School Districts in Pennsylvania*, investigates the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural school district and cyber charter school enrollments, and their financial implications. Additionally, *Burden of COVID-19 Pandemic on Mental Health and Related Behavioral Stressors of Students in Pennsylvania Schools*, by S.N. Gajanan, investigates the stress effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student mental health.

Our final article in this issue, *College Promise Programs and Alternative Tuition Strategies in Pennsylvania and Beyond*, by David B. Monaghan, Crystal Almanzar, Allyson Ritchey, and Madison Laughman, assesses the effectiveness of College Promise programs and their effects on rural communities.

It is the hope of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania that you find these studies to be useful resources. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit our website at www.rural.pa.gov to view our past research reports, and access rural data that the Center makes available to the public. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance in your rural policy and research needs.

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