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Front Matter

Dana Pomykal Franz

Mississippi State University, dana.pomykal.franz@colled.msstate.edu

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Summer 2016

The Rural Educator

A Journal about Rural and Small School Issues



The official journal of the National Rural Education Association



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Table of Contents

From the Editor	iv
Learning the Language of Home: Using Place-based Writing Practice to Help Rural Students Connect to Their Communities... <i>Erin Donovan</i>	1
Policies and Professional Development: An Oil Boom’s Effect on Rural Schools and Teachers	13
<i>Vincent Genareo</i>	
Rural Educator Policy Brief: Rural Education and the Every Student Succeeds Act	23
<i>Devon Brenner</i>	
Becoming a Principal: Access Factors for Females	28
<i>Rae Ann Kruse, Bernita L. Krumm</i>	
School Turnaround: A Rural Reflection of Reform on the Reservation and Lessons for Implementation	39
<i>Ian M. Mette, Jason Stanoch</i>	

A nationally refereed journal about rural and small school issues
sponsored by the National Rural Education Association

Cover Photo: **Coker County School** is a K-8 school with 250 students. The school is located in the town of Tellico Plains, TN.

From the Editor

Welcome to the Summer 2016 issue of *The Rural Educator*. This issue will be published both as a paper copy and as an electronic publication. The Rural Educator is hosted at Mississippi State University Library:

<http://library.msstate.edu/ruraleducator>

Beginning with this issue, the journal will regularly feature a policy information brief. In this issue, Dr. Devon Brenner, immediate past fellow in Senator Thad Cochran's office, details the new Elementary and Secondary Act. Specifically, she addresses all the ways rural is mentioned in ESSA. We hope our readers find this new feature useful in their work. If you have a specific policy concern you would like to see addressed in a future issue, please contact The Rural Educator theruraleducator@gmail.com.

The journal will accept two types of submissions: empirical-based, research manuscripts and promising practice manuscripts. Research manuscripts will be similar to what the Rural Educator has been showcasing all along.

In addition, we are excited to unveil a new category for manuscripts published in the Rural Educator-- Promising Practices.

We hope that this new, second category of articles will highlight effective and emerging practices by and for educators in rural settings. We hope to publish one of these in the very next issue! Specific guidelines for each of these type of manuscripts is available online at

<http://library.msstate.edu/ruraleducator>

Finally, we would like to thank the individuals who have served as reviewers for the Rural Educator in last six months. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the individuals listed below for their expertise and feedback.

Sincerely,

Dana Pomykal Franz, Ph.D., editor
Anastasia D. Elder, Ph.D., co-editor
Stephanie Bennett, Ph.D., review editor
Shane McGregor, M.Ed., ed. assistant
Mississippi State University