Editor's Note: JAESE'S Initial Aim, Scope And Business Model

It is my professional privilege and personal pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of the new *Journal of Astronomy & Earth Sciences Education*. This journal is the direct result of the discipline-based science education research community coming together to explore new publishing options and business models to better connect theory, research, and practice of teaching and learning to improving Earth sciences science education at all levels, K-to-grey (kindergarten to senior citizens). Such action has taken tremendous courage by many parties to try something bold and new, as well as hold dear a commitment to honoring science education research traditions of the past. The initial direction and structure of JAESE has been guided by a highly-experienced editorial advisory and review board who have enthusiastically volunteered their time, expertise, and credibility to help this journal come to fruition.

The aim of JAESE is to become the premier peer-reviewed publishing vehicle for documenting and disseminating high-quality and timely discipline-based science education research across the geosciences. International in scope, JAESE aims to publish the highest quality and timely articles from discipline-based education research that advance understanding of astronomy and Earth sciences education that are likely to have a significant impact on the disciplines or on policy. As our starting place, we have elected to define our scope of geosciences education broadly. JAESE will consider manuscripts describing both (i) systematic discipline-based science education research and (ii) evaluated teaching innovations across the broadly defined Earth & space sciences education, including the disciplines of astronomy, agriculture, climate education, energy resource science, environmental science, geology, geography, agriculture, meteorology, planetary sciences, and oceanography education. All submissions are peer-reviewed by a minimum of two reviewers, using a double-blind system where authors' names are not revealed to the reviewers.

The business model for JAESE is based on a highly successful and time-tested open-access approach used by JAESE's publisher, Denver's Clute Institute. Any publishing enterprise having a durable commitment to permanent archival storage and international citation indexing incurs considerable costs. In some disciplines, these costs are covered by a portion of a society membership dues, which can run from tens to hundreds of dollars per person ($USD). In other disciplines, these costs are born by University library subscriptions. In still other disciplines, page-charges are the status quo, which are typically covered by research grant award funds or by dedicated research institution funds.

Affectionately pronounced "JAY-see", JAESE is not directly affiliated with any specific university, professional society or non-profit entity. The business model JAESE has selected is an open-access model where publication, preservation, and archival costs are covered by authors, grant awards, institutions, professional societies, or philanthropic gifts. There are two distinct fees for publishing in JAESE. First, manuscripts are assessed a submission-fee which must be paid before the article is sent out for blind-review. This nominal submission fee dramatically reduces the number of spurious submissions that slow down the publications process resulting in substantially faster turn-around and decision times. The second fee is an open-access fee based on the manuscript's word count. We anticipate most JAESE articles to be about 5,000 words long. Together, this approach results in relatively quick review cycles and the widest possible readership, with readers accessing JAESE articles without any cost to the reader. In contrast, some large, traditional journal publishers now charge hundreds to thousands of dollars ($USD) for authors to grant open-access to readers who do not hold subscriptions.

Because JAESE is part of Clute Institute's large portfolio of well-regarded journals, we are able to keep costs relatively low for our authors and still provide consistently high-quality peer reviewing. We are fully aware that some open-access journals have come under due criticism because of unethical predatory practices, charging authors fees to publish un-refereed work—this is not JAESE's approach. JAESE is purposefully keeping its focus on maintaining the quality of the science research it publishes through rigorous peer review while keeping costs low and relying on a thriving and dedicated editorial advisory and peer review board to provide a solid and reliable documentation and dissemination publication for science education scholars.

Timothy F. Slater, PH.D.
Editor-in-Chief

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