

CALL FOR PAPERS
**The Journal of Higher Education
Management**

Special Thematic Issue
***Beyond Automation: How AI is Enhancing
Leadership in Higher Education***

The American Association of University Administrators, sponsor of *The Journal of Higher Education Management (JHEM)*, is planning the publication of a special issue of the journal. The theme of this forthcoming special issue is *Beyond Automation: How AI is Enhancing Leadership in Higher Education*. The preparation of this special thematic issue of JHEM is being facilitated, organized, and directed by:

Senior Editor: Sister Ann Heath, IHM, Ph.D., Immaculata University
Senior Guest Editor: Gregor Thuswaldner, Ph.D.

Background: The integration of artificial intelligence into higher education administration is no longer a futuristic concept—it is happening now, reshaping institutions in ways that extend beyond mere automation. This special edition of the *Journal of Higher Education Management* seeks to provide a panoramic view of how universities and colleges are leveraging AI to enhance their operations across all facets of institutional management. From academic affairs to student life, from advancement to athletics management, from enrollment and admissions to library services, AI-driven tools and strategies are increasingly influencing decision-making, efficiency, and leadership. This issue is not intended as a celebratory showcase of institutions claiming success, but rather as a critical exploration of the lessons learned—both from successes and failures. Through a collection of essays written by colleagues across multiple institutions, we aim to document what is happening in the field today, offering insights that university administrators can use to evaluate and adapt AI-driven solutions on their own campuses.

We welcome submissions that provide rigorous analysis, case studies, and thoughtful critiques of AI applications in higher education management. Contributors are encouraged to explore both the potential and the pitfalls of AI in decision-making, policy development, student engagement, faculty affairs, budgeting, and more. What strategies have proven most effective? What unforeseen challenges have arisen? How are institutions ensuring ethical AI implementation while maintaining human-centered leadership? *The Journal of Higher Education Management*, published under the auspices of the American Association of University Administrators, focuses on higher education leadership, policy analysis, and institutional management. Essays must directly address managerial aspects of higher education; pedagogical topics or unrelated discussions will not be considered. Our goal is to provide university leaders with a resource that fosters dialogue, innovation, and responsible AI adoption.

Examples of themes might include, but are not restricted to:

- AI-driven enrollment management and student recruitment
- Predictive analytics for student success and retention
- AI applications in budget planning and financial modeling
- AI and academic program evaluation: balancing efficiency and faculty governance
- The ethical implications of AI in decision-making
- AI-enhanced institutional research and strategic planning
- AI's role in faculty workload distribution and academic scheduling
- Smart campus technologies and AI-driven student services
- AI in advancement: optimizing donor engagement and fundraising strategies
- Lessons from failed AI implementations: what went wrong and why
- Legal and compliance considerations in AI-driven higher education administration
- Innovative applications of AI in creating a new higher education model

This special issue aims to provide an invaluable resource for college and university leaders seeking to understand and strategically implement AI in their institutions. We look forward to contributions that critically assess this evolving landscape and help shape the conversation around AI's role in higher education leadership.

Timeline

- May 15, 2025: Deadline for Proposals for contributors
- September 1, 2025: Manuscript submission deadline
- December 1, 2025: First decisions regarding submitted manuscripts
- January 31, 2026: Revised manuscript submission deadline

Proposals

The proposal should be a word document containing the following: (a) manuscript title (which may change), (b) the names, affiliations, and emails of authors, and (c) a proposal (~500 words) of the planned contribution that includes: a summary of the key issues or questions the paper will address and its relevance to the special issue. For empirical papers, the proposal should also provide methods, measures/variables, and results. The due date for proposals is May 15, 2025.

Manuscripts

The manuscript should be written for the college or university administrator who has the general responsibilities of educational leadership, policy analysis, staff development, or institutional management. The length for journal articles is approximately 5,000 words. Papers are blind reviewed and are publishable only upon the favorable recommendation of at least two reviewers. The Journal charges no publishing or page-cost fees. The due date for manuscripts is September 1, 2025.

Submission

Manuscripts must be submitted as MSWord documents; each should contain the name, professional title/institution (if any), and complete contact information for each author. Manuscripts must conform to the latest standards of the APA style manual. Tables, figures, and

charts must be presented in black and white; the use of unique page headers/footers (other than page numbers) or complicated internal formatting should be avoided. All proposals and manuscripts should be submitted electronically to Gregor.Thuswaldner@aaua.org. Authors who do not submit a brief proposal by May 15, 2025, may still submit a full manuscript by the deadline of September 1, 2025 (however, we cannot guarantee full consideration of these submissions). All questions can be emailed to editor@jhem.online. Thank you again for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your proposal!

MORE ABOUT *THE JOURNAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT*

The Journal of Higher Education Management is published under the auspices and sponsorship of the American Association of University Administrators. The Association's purpose in doing so is to provide opportunities: (a) for the discussion of the current issues, problems and challenges facing higher education; (b) for the exchange of practical wisdom and techniques in the areas of higher education leadership, policy analysis and development, and institutional management; and (c) for the identification and explication of the principles and standards of college and university administration.

Copies of *JHEM* are archived on the association's website and are available to anyone without charge (<http://www.aaua.org/journals/journals.htm>). Permission to reprint articles from the journal is freely given, provided that an appropriate and correct citation appears on all copied/distributed versions. Membership in AAUA is not a condition of publishing in *JHEM*, nor is it a criterion considered in manuscript selection.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

The American Association of University Administrators is a non-profit professional organization for higher education leaders and administrative personnel. It is the only professional association for individuals who are interested in the entire range of higher education management (from department chair/unit director through president) in the entire diverse set of American colleges and universities (two- and four-year; public, private non-profit, private for-profit; comprehensive, research-focused, special mission). The stated mission of AAUA is to develop and advance superior standards and practices for the profession of higher education administration, particularly emphasizing the responsibility of administrators, at all levels, to demonstrate moral and ethical leadership in the exercise of all their duties.

The association works actively to:

- Promote the professional development of individuals engaged in the administration of higher education.
- Promulgate ethical and professional standards for administrators and institutions of higher education.
- Cultivate the mutuality of interests of those engaged in or concerned with the administration of higher education.

Membership in AAUA helps support the association's mission. In addition, membership provides—for those members who have an interest—opportunities for professional networking and leadership. In addition to enrolling and serving a significant complement of administrators at

the most senior levels, the association is also interested in assisting early-career practitioner administrators build/enhance their leadership portfolios by providing leadership opportunities through service on association committees, boards, and taskforces. Opportunities to collaborate on offering professional development services are available as well.