

Call for Papers

The Journal of Higher Education Management

Special Thematic Issue

Designing the Future: Legacy and Vision in Dialogue

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: *Designing the Future: Legacy and Vision in Dialogue*. The preparation of this special thematic issue of JHEM is being facilitated and organized under the direction of the Senior Editorial Board of JHEM.

Designing the Future: Legacy and Vision in Dialogue

The future of higher education takes shape dynamically, at once building the enduring ethos and lessons of the past and responding creatively to innovative ideas, new paradigms, and challenging uncertainties. Today's higher education landscape reflects both disruption and possibility, challenging leaders to honor institutional legacies while designing more adaptive, equitable, and future-focused institutions.

This special issue, *Designing the Future: Legacy and Vision in Dialogue*, invites scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders to explore the dynamic relationship between honoring institutional legacies and envisioning transformation. We seek manuscripts that examine how higher education leaders can thoughtfully balance tradition with innovation, drawing upon historical foundations to inform bold, inclusive, and sustainable pathways forward. Contributions may address leadership theory, institutional change, historical milestones, governance, culture, equity, innovation, or other topics that illuminate the dialogue between past wisdom and future possibility.

Through a collection of articles written by colleagues across a variety of institutions, we aim to document what is happening in the field today through the lens of value, contribution, failures and successes, responsiveness and planning. We also aim to offer insights that university administrators can use to gain perspective on how institutions have responded to the democratic ideal of educating for the moment in history and how the present serves as a catalyst for new solutions on our own campuses.

We welcome scholarly submissions that provide rigorous analysis, case studies, and thoughtful critiques of both value and challenge related to higher education management. What strategies have proven most effective? What unforeseen challenges have arisen? How are institutions ensuring an ethical, well-prepared, educated populace within an environment of human-centered leadership?

The Editors welcome: interdisciplinary papers, co-authored by higher education faculty and administrators from different disciplines to effectively address future possibilities; papers which acknowledge the current skepticism surrounding higher education, and offer constructive, solution-oriented research; and scholarly research of all types. Examples include, but are not restricted to the following topical areas: transformational change, reimaging of higher education's purpose and practice, structural disruptions, contextualizing and redefining the academy, measuring the multidimensional value of higher education, artificial intelligence as a catalyst for innovation and disruption in higher education, converging pressures and possibilities reshaping higher education institutions, and leadership practices.

Our goal is to provide contributions that critically assess this evolving landscape and help shape the conversation around the value of higher education in society and the implications for higher education leadership.

Timeline

- August 1, 2026: Deadline for Proposals
- November 1, 2026: Manuscript submission deadline
- December 15, 2026: First decisions regarding submitted manuscripts
- February 15, 2027: Revised manuscript submission deadline
- April 2027: Anticipated publication.

Proposals The proposal should be submitted as 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. The due date for proposals is August 1, 2026.

Manuscripts

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 (no copyrighted images/charts/figures may be used); the use of unique page headers/footers (other than page numbers) or

complicated internal formatting should be avoided. Generally, manuscripts should not exceed 5,000 words. All manuscripts will be subjected to a double-blind peer review process. Additional details can be found on the AAUA website under Contributors <https://aaua.org/journal-of-higher-education-management/>

Submission

All proposals and manuscripts should be submitted electronically to editor@jhem.online with a subject line of *Special Issue*. Authors who do not submit a brief proposal by August 1, 2026, may still submit a **full manuscript by the deadline of November 1, 2026**; while we encourage proposal submission, it is not required for manuscript consideration. All questions can be emailed to editor@jhem.online. Thank you again for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your proposal!



ABOUT THE JOURNAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT

The *Journal of Higher Education Management* (JHEM) is published under the auspices and sponsorship of the American Association of University Administrators (AAUA). 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 (AAUA) 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 collective engagement and dialogue around shared interests among administrative leaders in higher education.

Membership in AAUA helps support the association's mission. In addition, membership provides opportunities for those members who have an interest in professional networking and leadership. In addition to enrolling and serving a significant complement of administrators at the most senior levels, the association also prioritizes identifying and assisting early-career practitioner administrators to build/enhance their leadership portfolios by providing leadership opportunities through service on association committees, boards, and taskforces. Opportunities to collaborate and network through participation in the AAUA professional development services are also available.