

Community College of Baltimore County

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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It is with genuine pride and pleasure that I pen a letter of welcome to launch the initial offering of the Community College of Baltimore County's (CCBC's) professional journal *Teaching and Learning Excellence through Scholarship (TALES)*. Although the acronym, *TALES*, by which the new journal is fondly known in the halls of CCBC, sounds more suggestive of a compendium of myths or fairy tales, no image could be further from the truth. This will be a journal worthy of the scholars who have committed to creating it and endowing it with a legacy of scholarly insights into classroom pedagogy and teaching methodology, all peer-reviewed and fully documented.

I chuckle a bit as I write this note of welcome since our editorial board has stated clearly that the originating genius of CCBC's journal has been the *Instructional Forum*, published for several decades by our colleagues at Prince George's Community College. As a professor of English for 22 years at Prince George's, in 1987 I was the founding editor of the *Instructional Forum*, then an instructional newsletter. I am delighted to see that from those humble beginnings, the *Instructional Forum* has matured into the well-respected scholarly journal it is today. Hence, I now have the dual pleasure of presiding over the inauguration of not one, but two scholarly journals. I look forward to providing active support – both professional and financial – for CCBC's new scholarly journal dedicated to showcasing the professional achievements of our faculty and staff.

Over the years, many pedagogical achievements, now nationally known, have been born in the prolific incubators of CCBC classrooms. Our faculty have taken risks to transform big ideas about teaching and learning into pedagogical applications now mirrored in community college classrooms across the country. Developmental Acceleration, Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning, Service Learning, Directed Self-Placement: all of these and many more are worthy of a journal dedicated to chronicling and celebrating them. *TALES* will provide a professional forum to give voice to these amazing efforts, sharing them with our CCBC faculty and with others across our community college sector.

I am proud of the vision our CCBC team has crafted and of the creativity and energy they have invested in bringing *TALES* to life. CCBC's new academic journal, *Teaching and Learning Excellence through Scholarship*, is yet another "big story" in the making at CCBC. I salute the efforts of Associate Professor Robin Minor and her team. In the best spirit of the slogan, "Go Big or Go Home," they are animating their "big vision" to create a venue to combine pedagogical theory and discovery with the magic of the community college's open-door mission. With this much energy, creativity, and commitment, "ain't nobody" on this team "Going Home." For that commitment and for so much more, we have pledged to assist them in "Going Big."

Welcome to our community of scholars.

