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Welcome by the Editor

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Welcome to this issue of the Journal of Environmental and Resource Economics at Colby (JEREC), an open-access, peer-reviewed journal. This journal publishes articles that are authored and refereed by undergraduate students. This issue of JEREC showcases research projects conducted by students in the Spring of 2017 for the *Third Wave of Environmental Management* senior seminar class at Colby College.

The articles in this issue are the culmination of a lengthy research process. Students conducted literature reviews, crafted original research questions, devised empirical strategies to shed light on these questions, collected and analyzed data, and presented their results in oral and written form.

These projects cover a diversity of topics ranging from the effectiveness of Pay-As-You-Throw policies for waste disposal to the impact of air quality on public transportation ridership to the role of peer effects in efforts to preserve water quality. They contribute to a growing and increasingly important literature on voluntary and information-based approaches (VIBAs) to environmental management. Professor Matthew Kahn, whose own research has helped shape this field over the years, has contributed the introduction for this issue.

JEREC was originally created as a pedagogical tool intended to expose students to the scholarly research and publication process. Given overwhelmingly positive student and institutional feedback, it is clear that JEREC has succeeded terrifically in fulfilling this purpose. Perhaps more surprisingly, what began as a classroom experiment has blossomed into an important outlet for the dissemination of student scholarship. To date, readers from nearly 90 countries around the world have viewed articles from JEREC, and the audience for this journal continues to grow.

I would like to make a few acknowledgments. First and foremost, I thank Sahan Dissanayake, Editor-in-Chief of JEREC. He founded this journal several years ago, and he has continued to support the journal through active involvement. His efforts have made it possible for four generations of Colby seniors to date to gain invaluable experience with the scholarly research and publication process. David Stienstra and Benedek Nyikos at BE Press, Martin Kelly, and Colby Libraries have also provided critical ongoing support to JEREC through the years. I would also like to thank Professor Kahn for penning the introduction to this issue. He is a foremost scholar in the field as well as a fellow NESAC alum! It is an honor to have his support and to feature his insights in this issue of JEREC.

Last and certainly not least, I would like to thank the students in the Spring 2017 edition of *Third Wave of Environmental Management*. They have impressed me with their curiosity, industry, and creativity, and the projects showcased in this issue are a testament to their immense abilities.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any thoughts or questions about the content in this issue, and thank you very much for reading JEREC.

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