



"Think. Work. Serve."

School of Graduate & Professional Studies  
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April 1, 2019

Chance W. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Urban Education  
Director, *The Urban Education Collaborative*  
Provost Faculty Fellow for Diversity, Inclusion and Access  
320 E. 9th Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202

Re: Special Issue Journal for *The Urban Education Research and Policy Annuals (UERPA)*

Dear Dr. Lewis,

As Dean of The School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Tennessee State University (TSU) it is my pleasure to put my full weight of support behind the graduate student authors featured in Special Issue Journal for *The Urban Education Research and Policy Annuals (UERPA)*; a graduate student academic journal in the field of urban education. I would also like to thank Dr. John Williams III, Graduate Student Editor for *The Urban Education Research and Policy Annuals (UERPA)*, for his cooperative spirit and ongoing support towards TSU graduate student authors.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the student authors to publish their research. This opportunity provides a dissemination platform and it will encourage other graduate authors to submit manuscripts in the future. This will assist The School of Graduate and Professional Studies in meeting one of our goals to engage graduate students in innovative research and increase scholarly publication participation.

Special recognition to Dr. Andrea L. Tyler and Dr. Kisha Bryan, who serve as co-editors for the Special Issue Journal for *The Urban Education Research and Policy Annuals (UERPA)*. Each student author has benefited from their hard work and commitment to the graduate community. I also hope that this will be the start of a promising relationship between Tennessee State University and The University of North Carolina-Charlotte and The Urban Education Collaborative.

There is a great synergy between the two institutions. I look forward to collaborating with you and increasing the number of graduate student authors in future journal issues. I commit the resources of The School of Graduate and Professional Studies will assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,  
  
Robbie K. Melton, Ph.D.

Transitional Dean, School of Graduate and Professional Studies