Welcome from the Editor-in-Chief

It is a distinct honor to introduce the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Integrative Leadership Studies* (JILS). As Editor-in-Chief, I extend my sincere gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and editorial team whose dedication and expertise made this first volume possible. Our inaugural theme, Human-Centered Leadership: Integrating Values, Theory, and Practice, reflects a core belief that leadership is fundamentally a human endeavor; one that requires the thoughtful integration of evidence, ethics, and action. Through this journal, we seek to foster a scholarly conversation that is rigorous, relational, and responsive to the complexities of contemporary leadership.

Leadership today unfolds within a landscape shaped by rapid technological change, evolving social dynamics, and pressing environmental challenges. These realities call for leaders who can think systemically while acting with empathy and integrity. Effective leadership requires navigating uncertainty, embracing accountability, and using data not merely as a mechanism of control, but as a tool for learning, improvement, and informed decision-making. Above all, requiring a commitment to human dignity and the creation of environments where individuals can thrive, contribute meaningfully, and achieve shared goals.

The *Journal of Integrative Leadership Studies* was established to serve as a bridge between scholarship and practice. We are committed to publishing research grounded in methodological rigor while also encouraging contributions that translate theory into practical insight. Consistent with this mission, JILS recognizes equity, inclusion, well-being, and ethical stewardship as central dimensions of effective leadership.

As we launch this inaugural issue, we invite readers to engage critically with the ideas presented within these pages. We hope this journal serves as both a repository of evidence-based knowledge and a catalyst for thoughtful leadership practice. Whether you are a scholar, practitioner, educator, policymaker, or student, your perspectives and contributions are essential to the continued growth of this interdisciplinary community. With appreciation and optimism, we offer this first issue as the foundation of a journal dedicated to advancing integrative, human-centered leadership. We welcome your submissions, insights, and partnership as we work together to build a vibrant, open-access scholarly forum that promotes excellence, innovation, and positive social impact.

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