

Spring 1996

Editorial

Henry R. Lehrer Ph.D.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.erau.edu/jaaer>

Scholarly Commons Citation

Lehrer, H. R. (1996). Editorial. *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research*, 6(3). Retrieved from <https://commons.erau.edu/jaaer/vol6/iss3/3>

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research* by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact commons@erau.edu.

EDITORIAL

This issue of JAAER is somewhat different from previous issues. The differences are that there are but two articles contained in this issue and both articles focus on one subject, faculty development/education. More importantly, however, both articles deal with issues that are very much on the cutting edge of academic thought in collegiate aviation circles. Both are written by men who may well play leadership roles in tomorrow's aviation academic community. Interestingly, the work of both authors is more intertwined than casual observation might easily determine.

The first article, *Faculty Professional Development Imperatives in Collegiate Aviation Programs*, by Jeffrey A. Johnson, focuses on a critical issue in the life of virtually any aviation faculty member, the continued acquisition of professional skills. The major components of the article outline the development of a needs-assessment paradigm and how to go about improving skills.

The second article, *Determination of Curriculum Content for a Non-Engineering Doctoral Degree in Aviation*, by Robert W. Kaps, is a summary of Dr. Kaps' 1995 doctoral dissertation. Interestingly, this dissertation was the first such doctoral-level study in this subject area, although a 1993 master's thesis by Johnson provided a great deal of preliminary data for the research.

Another important item to bring to bring to your

attention concerning the Kaps manuscript is the uniqueness of the data-gathering mechanism used for the study. In aviation, we often find ourselves with a very limited number of individuals possessing the knowledge and expertise needed to provide meaningful data on a specific issue or subject. Also complicating the data-collection process is that these individuals also may be widely separated in location. Kaps has overcome these hurdles through the use of a modified Delphi technique for gathering respondents' opinions on the important questions. The methodology used, and the references cited, can well serve as an important model for others to use in their future research. JAAER is pleased to provide its readership with this kind of information.

HRL