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## Letter from the Editors

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Dear Readers,

The editorial staff is grateful for an incredible inaugural year. Since July of 2020, *The Liberty University of Statesmanship & Public Policy* has had articles downloaded over five thousand times from every inhabitable continent. We are deeply grateful to our readers, writers, and editors who have contributed to this undertaking.

Amid challenging and even unprecedented times in the world and our nation's history, *The Liberty University Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy* remains committed to promoting academic excellence, rigorous peer-review, and above all, a thoughtful, ethical, and Christian perspective in writing about the people, the policies, and the politics of our nation and our world. With this mission in mind, we are excited to continue publishing for many years to come.

We remain committed to the idea that our rights are God-given, and we should continue to participate in civil discourse in an effort to better exercise those rights.

For this second issue, we once again had many submissions and are publishing here the best—with topics that range from COVID-19, to manumission, to human trafficking, and critical race theory in categories that include domestic public policy, international relations and foreign policy, national security, and political philosophy.

This past March, the journal along with the Helms School of Government, held our first public policy conference entitled “Culture & Crisis: Reconciling Constitutionalism & Federalism in a Time of Crisis,” with several panels tackling the issues of our day, including topics like the culture wars, criminal justice reform, grass roots activism, and protection of religious liberty. We were honored to host several scholars and thought leaders from the Heritage Foundation, the Virginia Family Foundation, and the Forge Leadership Network. To date, the proceedings of our conference have been downloaded in over 75 countries located on every inhabitable continent. We anticipate another impactful conference in the Spring of 2022, and more details will be forthcoming.

This publication would not have been possible without the guidance of Dean Robert Hurt, and Associate Dean Joel Cox. In addition, the help of Faculty Advisors Dr. Mary Prentice and Dr. Kahlil Fischer proved to be invaluable. Mr. Titus Pettman, Mrs. Melanie Lamm, and Mrs. Barbara Potts offered great assistance. Additional help and guidance were also graciously given by Dean Ron Miller, Dean Suzanne Caruso, and Dr. Jason Ross.

Special thanks to the several faculty and staff editors, including Professors Robert Cooper, Stuart Mattfield, Dr. Kahlil Fischer, Dr. David Holt, and Dr. Mary Prentice.

Special thanks also to Andy Langeland, our Marketing Director, and Paul Prentice for marketing and graphic design/communications assistance; as well as to the Assistant Editors in Chief, Elizabeth Atinuke Ayowole, Parker Bott, and Carolina Mejia; and the many student editors that helped along the way: Christian Butler, Joseph Carl, Natalie Cawston, Jacob Chace, Faith Chudkowski, Kerry Good, Ashley Gore, Maggie Hedrick, Samuel Jones, Megan Muldoon, Paul Prentice, Charles Scroggins, Savannah Snyder, and Rachel Solsman.

The next edition of the journal will be published in the Winter of 2022. We look forward to considering and reviewing your submissions!

Sincerely,

*The Liberty University Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy* Editors-in-Chief

Bess Blackburn, Shaddi Spencer, Catherine Latchford, & Hayden O'Connor