

### From the Editor

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of duty that I assume the role of Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Small Business Strategy*. The faculty and staff of Middle Tennessee State University, the Jones College of Business, and the office of the Wright Travel Chair of Entrepreneurship are grateful to the members of the Small Business Institute® for giving us the opportunity to publish this exceptional journal with such a rich heritage. The hard work, dedication, and research of authors, reviewers, and previous editors have all contributed to this body of knowledge we know as the *Journal of Small Business Strategy*. I am especially humbled when reviewing the list of editors during the 25 year history of the journal. The previous editors include:

- Gwen Fontenot
- Lloyd Elgart
- Joe Singer
- Stephen Osborne
- Fred Fry
- Paul Stephens
- Ross Fink
- Gerald Hills

This issue marks the first issue of the *Journal of Small Business Strategy* to be published by Middle Tennessee State University in conjunction with the Small Business Institute® after being housed for more than 10 years at Bradley University. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for Gerald Hills and the editorial review board who have served the journal well and made the transition to Middle Tennessee State smooth and seamless.

The contributions in this issue include two papers in the area of Entrepreneurship. The first paper primarily focuses on the early influencers on potential entrepreneurs while the second paper specifically examines the gender of the entrepreneur and the relationship to performance. These two papers are followed by the best and distinguished papers from the 2015 Small Business Institute Conference that was held in St. Pete Beach, Florida. These papers include an article that deals with the small business board of directors, a paper on sustainability, one on philanthropic intent, and concludes with an empirical examination of pedagogical methods and the impact on student entrepreneurial propensity.

The future of the *Journal of Small Business Strategy* is bright, and there are some exciting collaborations that will be unfolding as the New Year approaches. The key to success, however, lies with you and your research in small business and entrepreneurship. Your submissions are always welcome. In addition, the editorial team would like to see book reviews once again become a regular feature of the journal. Your comments and suggestions can help us stay at the forefront of small business and entrepreneurial thought. I look forward to hearing from you!

**William C. McDowell, Ph.D.**

---