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Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the University of Houston Clear Lake. We are grateful to the Small Business Institute ® and our small business research colleagues for the opportunity to bring you our second issue.

The theme of this issue is education and experience. Small business owners face many of the same conflicts and challenges that their larger competitors face, but the small business must overcome these obstacles with greater resource constraints. To this end, the skill set of the small business owner must be high and their readiness they must be ready to swiftly respond to changes in the environment.

Our first paper looks at the role of entrepreneurial education in depressed economic environments. Entrepreneurship elsewhere: examining the entrepreneurial characteristics of eastern Kentucky adolescents was a best paper award winner at the [2017 Small Business Institute ® conference](#).

From there we move to an examination of small business education in Israel. In “Developing a small business management concentration within a business degree,” Dr.’s Marom and Lussier describe the steps taken to develop a curriculum for a Bachelor’s business degree.

Our third paper explores the antecedents of success and satisfaction for franchise owners. In “the influence of human capital factors on franchising,” Dr.’s McDermott and Boyd find that prior experience correlates with both job and life satisfaction for future franchise owners.

The final paper proposes that the sharing economy may play a positive role on sustainability by way of user rating systems. In “the sharing economy and sustainability: a case for Airbnb,” our authors suggest that user ratings and feedback available through this sharing economy website should have a positive effect on energy consumption and conservation efforts.

We hope that you enjoy these works and we thank our authors for their scholarship and their passion for advancing small business research. We encourage our readers to share our papers, our open-source format encourages the sharing and access to our publications. Finally, we wish to thank our reviewer colleagues for their tireless efforts. Academic publishing would be far less rigorous without the effort of our peer-reviewers.

Kindest Regards,

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