Call for Student Board Members for the American Journal of Education

The American Journal of Education (AJE) is seeking doctoral and Master’s student applicants from across the College of Education for the AJE Student Board. AJE is a core journal in the field of education that covers a broad spectrum of educational research (including K-12 and university levels), and has been edited by Penn State faculty since 2003.

Now in its fourth year, AJE’s Student Board provides an exciting opportunity for graduate students to publish original pieces of writing, learn more about reviewing and publishing in the field of education, and form relationships with senior scholars.

Student Board members run the AJE Forum website (www.ajeforum.com), an online venue that complements and extends the print edition of AJE by publishing original opinion pieces, interviews with top scholars, and reviews of work in high-interest areas of education research. Student Board members craft original content for AJE Forum, solicit content from other education bloggers and graduate students from outside Penn State, help to manage the day-to-day operations of the website, and network with other education bloggers to create an ongoing dialogue about educational issues among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

Time commitment is estimated at 10-15 hours per month, with formal meetings once a month, but mostly independent, on-your-own-schedule work. Appointments to the Student Board will be for one academic year, with the possibility of reappointment. The Student Board is supported by AJE's senior board members and managing editors.

Benefits of becoming an AJE Student Board member
Student board members...
- develop experience in writing about educational issues for a wide audience and reviewing others’ writing.
- learn important skills for disseminating one's work as a scholar, such as building a social media presence and managing a website.
- strengthen their CVs through the leadership opportunities provided within AJE Forum, as well as through the writing opportunities the Forum provides (many student board members have a CV section called "Peer Reviewed Online Writing").
- gain experience reviewing articles submitted for the AJE Forum website, as well as reviewing articles submitted for publication in the American Journal of Education.
- participate in professional development workshops on reviewing, editing, and publishing, led by AJE board members and journal editors in the College of Education.

Application Procedures
We are looking for general members of the AJE Student Board, as well as for people to fill the following four positions (with responsibilities listed):

1. **Communications Manager**: Reach out to education bloggers to tell them about AJE Forum pieces
2. **Outreach Coordinator**: Identify new leads for Forum pieces and follow up with those leads to solicit content for AJE Forum; coordinate with AJE journal authors who wish to write Forum pieces
3. **Workflow Manager**: Manage workflow of AJE forum pieces from the idea phase to finished drafts; remind reviewers to look at drafts; send periodic email updates with reminders
4. **Resource Manager**: Compile and maintain manuals, resources; document operating procedures

We are also interested in applicants with strong editing skills and experience managing websites (or willingness to learn how).
If interested in becoming a member of the Student Board and/or serving in one of the roles listed above, please send (1) a letter of interest and (2) a writing sample to ajed@psu.edu.

**Application emails are due by NOON on Thursday, September 18, 2014.**

(1) The **Letter of Interest** should introduce yourself, tell us why you are interested in the opportunity, and illustrate your interest with any relevant past experiences or future aspirations. Please also tell us your primary area of interest in education scholarship. If you would be willing to take on one or more of the positions described above, please explain why you would be qualified for that position.

(2) For the **Writing Sample**, we ask that you take a look at the "Opinion" section of the AJE Forum, available at [www.ajeforum.com](http://www.ajeforum.com), and draft a 500–800 word opinion piece on a concern or question of your choice. This piece will play a strong role in our final decision of whom to invite to serve on the Student Board. The piece will be evaluated for (1) clear, engaging writing style; (2) thought-provoking framing of your piece’s question/concern; (3) well considered connections to pieces in scholarly and/or popular media outlets (1-5 references are sufficient). We emphasize that, while your piece should reflect a level of scholarly knowledge, it absolutely must be driven by a concern, question, and opinion that is thought provoking and interesting to a well-informed reader (i.e., someone who is not necessarily a content expert).

Please submit your application materials no later than **NOON on Thursday, September 18** to ajed@psu.edu. Should you have any clarifying questions, please email AJE managing editors (Bryan Mann and Emily Hodge) at this same address, ajed@psu.edu.

If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to reach out to current Student Board members: Nik Barkauskas, Kristina Brezicha, Talia Carroll, Emily Hodge, Sakiko Ikoma, Jing Liu, Bryan Mann, Will Smith, and Aubree Webb, (all at Penn State), Megan Austin (University of Notre Dame), and Kathryn Fishman-Weaver (University of Missouri).

Gerry LeTendre and Dana Mitra, Editors
Megan Hopkins, Senior Associate Editor and Student Board Advisor

*American Journal of Education*