

ECRI

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Bard College at
SIMON'S ROCK



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Milestones

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Editor's Note

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Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead.
— Nelson Mandela

In the words of Nelson Mandela, “Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead.” Twenty years of building and implementing early colleges throughout the nation is worthy of noting and celebrating, and in this celebratory issue of *Early College Folio*, we reflect the accomplishments that came in the two decades since the major expansions of the early college idea by Bard College and the Gates Foundation, while taking stock of the challenges and opportunities ahead.

This issue of *Early College Folio* marks the fundamental nature of “milestones”—highlighting the challenges, complexities, and successes of the various and varied worldviews from authors’ experiences and expertise in and outside of the classroom. While it is difficult to capture an entire 20 years of milestones, this issue presents authors such as Russ Olwell whose article, “The Early College Research Tradition and the People Who Made It,” provides a synopsis that gives voice to individuals who were instrumental in the early college movement. The presentation by Stephen Tremaine and Andrea Soonachan features the celebration of 20 years of early colleges in New York City. You will find Ray Peterson’s article, “Milestones, Looking Back,” giving voice to central themes and events that are significant to the stories and dialogues instrumental in the inception and continuation of early colleges. Matthew Parks’s scholarly work, “The House of Seminar Needs Overhaul,” brings archival perspectives to this issue with his focus on what is a fundamental course at Bard College, Simon’s Rock, and the Bard Early Colleges—Seminar. We would be remiss to examine the past 20 years of early college without the voices of Leon Botstein and Dumaine Williams. Their conversation catapults the past, present and, most especially, the future of Bard Early College, and the complexities that lie within and throughout public education, to the forefront. The pair’s discussion of diversity, equity, and inclusion intersects poignant considerations about student outcomes. Finally, this issue also features several book reviews to invigorate our senses to seek out more knowledge and information. The book reviews encourage us to share, listen, and learn. Embrace all that they exude and seek out to read the books presented.

I have been honored to have experienced eight of Bard's 20 years, first teaching at Bard High School Early College (BHSEC) Cleveland (2015) to BHSEC Cleveland East (2017) and now BHSEC DC (2019). My roles at Bard Early Colleges have allowed me to take a deep breath and say, not only shall we overcome, but we shall seek moments to continually build, and most of all, celebrate and look to the future. As you read these articles, I hope that you will feel a kindred spirit and come away with an active mind to also celebrate with us the extensive developments in early college programs in the last 20 years. We give thanks to all those who have paved the roads for early colleges to thrive and to those who continually work towards the essential goal of providing an education that has an insurmountably impactful effect on all early college students. We are also grateful for all those who contributed to this issue and who made this publication possible. Read, reflect, and enjoy this issue of the *Early College Folio*.

Peace and blessings,

Dr. Yawa

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