



Sam Evans, Ph.D.

Scholarship can take many forms, and what we value in terms of scholarship is often guided by our discipline and the mentoring that has been provided during our individual professional development. Regardless of the type of scholarship in which we are engaged, the products of our efforts are the life blood of our society. In our current economic environment individuals are facing many uncertainties and are searching for new and unique ways of solving the problems of our society and essentially those of the larger world. The American system of higher education is without question one of the crown jewels of our society and envied throughout the world. It has provided an environment conducive to the development of new ideas and ways to solve problems and issues that are insurmountable in the eyes of some individuals. This environment has provided us with freedom to work in ways that are envied by our colleagues in other nations, and it also challenges our commitment to the phrase “of those to whom much is given, much is expected.”

We have colleagues who are involved in cutting edge research, while others are involved in creative endeavors that add beauty and enjoyment to the community and world in which we live and work. These efforts not only contribute to the well-being of society but also inform our teaching and provide opportunities for students to connect the theoretical world of the classroom to the world of practice. Whether in a laboratory, studio, clinical, or field setting, through our scholarship we have the opportunity and obligation to equip future generations in a way that will help them address issues and problems that are known and sometime unknown. To accomplish this goal, we must provide a learning environment that fosters creative and critical thinking and challenges our students to maximize their potential.

In addition to providing us with professional opportunities that are personally satisfying, individually and collectively our scholarly agendas have the potential to open doors for others and help to fulfill WKU’s vision to be a Leading American University with International Reach. Our challenges become new opportunities for ourselves and others, and our commitment to scholarship will help us recognize and utilize these opportunities for the betterment of society.

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