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EDITORS' NOTES

This will be the final issue of the *Journal of Microfinance* before it changes its title and focus as explained below. As we mark this transition, we look back with appreciation on the genesis of the journal. Particular thanks go to Gary Woller and Warner Woodworth for their vision in seeing the need for a journal that would formalize microfinance as a serious topic of academic research.

This vision of a journal that would open the dialogue between practitioners and academics on the topic of microfinance was only realized through the hard work and support of many individuals and institutions. Gary Woller is especially deserving for his efforts as editor in the earliest years of the journal. He worked tirelessly to create awareness of the *Journal of Microfinance*, recruiting a strong group of reviewers as well as establishing the journal's reputation among researchers. As a result of his efforts, the journal reached a point where only about twenty-five percent of articles submitted were accepted for publication, putting the *Journal of Microfinance* on par with other top journals in the field.

Gary was supported in this effort by the George W. Romney Institute for Public Management and the Center for Economic Self-Reliance of the Marriott School at Brigham Young University. Additional support came from the School of Business at Brigham Young University–Hawaii, both financially and editorially through Beth Haynes, who served as Book Review Editor, while I served as co-editor of the journal.

Of course, additional thanks go out to our fine editorial board, consisting of many leaders in the field of microfinance. I also wish to express gratitude for the fine work of our many volunteer reviewers, who worked hard to ensure the quality of the articles that appeared in the journal.

Finally, to the authors of the research appearing in the *Journal of Microfinance*, I wish to extend my congratulations for having made the journal into a demanding and innovative publication. Your efforts have led us all to think about the practice of microfinance in ways that will push the movement forward for years to come. In fact, the journal's shift from a more narrow focus on microfinance to a broader focus on economic self-reliance is indicative of the lessons we have learned as we have sought better ways to reduce poverty throughout the world.

Again, I thank all who have been involved in trying to make this world a better place through the use of microfinance. Your work continues to be valuable in the push toward greater economic self-reliance and will find a

welcoming home in the new publication, *Advances in Economic Self-Reliance*.

Norman Wright
Editor, *Journal of Microfinance*

With the next issue, the name, focus, and format of the *Journal of Microfinance* will change—the new name will be *Advances in Economic Self-Reliance*. In March of 2003, the Center for Economic Self-Reliance was formally established at the Marriott School of Management at Brigham Young University. The Center was founded on a vision of improving the economic self-reliance of individuals and families around the world by bringing researchers, practitioners, and donors together through action research.

Microfinance deals with the provision of financial services to the poor to establish and sustain microenterprises, thus improving their earning capabilities. As such, the principles and practices of microfinance represent one important vehicle through which people can improve their economic self-reliance. Economic self-reliance is a broader concept that includes education, work within traditional employment relationships, principles of personal prudence and discipline such as budgeting or resource management, and concerns such as risk management through social networks or insurance. Each of these components, coupled with individual initiative, works to create or improve self-reliance. The name change of the journal signifies our willingness to publish articles on these important broader topics as well as continuing to support microenterprise efforts.

The focus of the journal will be broader than before, and the writing style and article selection policies will change as we attempt to reach out to practitioners and donors as well as researchers. The initial issues will include pieces from thought leaders in the area of economic development, a theory article that outlines new and important concepts in the field, a research and case study section, a short description of best practices in the areas of self-reliance or NGO organizational management, and a book review. We expect the format and content of the journal to evolve as we better understand and model the processes of economic self-reliance. We invite you to evolve with us and hope you will continue to see this publication as valuable to your efforts to build a better world.

Paul C. Godfrey
Editor, *Advances in Economic Self-Reliance*

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Submissions: Since *Advances in Economic Self-Reliance* is a practitioner-oriented journal, we welcome article proposals dealing with various aspects of self-reliance from thoughtful practitioners, researchers, and donors. Please email a one page article proposal to the editor at aiesr@byu.edu to begin the submission process, or mail your proposal to: *Advances in Economic Self-Reliance*, BYU Center for Economic Self-Reliance, 712 TNRB, Provo, UT 84602.

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