

## New Year Greetings from *Science Insights Education Frontiers*

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*“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”  
–William Butler Yeats*

THE YEAR of 2023 was supposed to be a year full of hopes and with the promise that everything would return to the right track. At the end of the year, however, we realized that the world was far away from the right track. Instead, it underwent a turbulent period, becoming more unstable, uncertain, and unpredictable: Geopolitical conflicts continued to escalate, and the humanitarian crises were deteriorating, with no signs of the Russian-Ukrainian war coming to an end or Palestinian-Israeli tension subsiding; The world economy was slowing down, facing the dual challenges of low growth and high inflation; Natural and climate change-induced disasters arose one after another, like the devastating earthquake in Turkey, once-in-a-century drought in the Amazon rainforest, and the raging floods in the Horn of Africa, to name a few.

On the other hand, the scientific and technological breakthroughs in 2023 brought us new hopes. The accelerated development of artificial intelligence resulted in a proliferation of AI applications. In the domain of health and care, advances in areas such as gene editing and stem cell research produced revolutionary outcomes. Further advancements of information technology such as the block chain technology provided new opportunities for human society, instigating innovations in a variety of sectors. We are fully confident that the year of 2024 will generate more opportunities.

To *SIEF*, 2023 was also a special and challenging year. *SIEF* transitioned from a bimonthly to monthly journal in 2023 and doubled the number of articles published, with two thirds of them being empirical research. It focused on emerging issues in the world community of education, encouraged in-depth discussions on educational topics of common concern, and continuously expanded research perspectives. The geographic diversity

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of its contributors and the quality of the articles have significantly improved. Some of the studies have sparked serious reactions and discussions among readers, and the number of views and downloads has seen a substantial increase. We hereby extend our sincere gratitude to all our contributors and readers who have been concerned with *SIEF*'s development. Your trust, support, and encouragement give sustaining impetus to our progress.

Facing prospective challenges, we continue to pursue our dreams. *SIEF* is committed to providing an open, inclusive, impartial, and scientific platform of academic exchanges for our global peers in the fields of education and teaching. In the New Year, the journal will carry on working to improve its academic level and focusing on the pressing issues in educational development, such as the impact of poverty on education, high-quality development of education through educational technology, effective application of educational theories in educational and instructional practice, and educational equity, especially in ethnic minority areas. In the meantime, *SIEF* will further expand the scope of discussion to include issues like preschool education, special education, social education, and more. We sincerely welcome educational researchers from all over the world to contribute to research on these issues. We also look forward to readers continuing to pay attention to *SIEF* and giving us your valuable feedback in order for us to further improve our publication.

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