

Editorial Preface

How May I Help You?

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INTRODUCTION

There are sometimes opportunities for geographers to rise into administrative and leadership positions. These might be positions such as program coordinators, chairs, deans, editor-in-chiefs, executive directors, or other such postings. These opportunities ought to be accepted with a service mindset akin to the Walmart slogan, “How may I help you?” The oft heard cliché, “The best leaders are the ones who don’t ask for the job” has been more true than false from my own personal experience. Too often leadership positions are filled with the least inspiring individuals fulfilling delusions of grandeur while hoping to ingratiate themselves with other administrators at the next (higher) rung of the organizational hierarchy. This fosters a “them” versus “us” atmosphere that stifles cooperation and productivity while reducing employee satisfaction. Excellent leaders delight in the accomplishments of those under their charge. In the end, successful individuals translate into flourishing programs, departments, colleges, journals, or organizations. Let me encourage those selfless individuals that are creative, dynamic, and passionate to migrate into the leadership vacuum generated by deposed, retired, and otherwise removed lieutenants of academia. While the field of applied geography is, and has been, blessed with exceptional leaders, there remain opportunities to reestablish sanity here and there. We must not settle for poor leaders because there are “no others alternatives,” but demand selfless, intelligent, and visionary leaders to champion our efforts.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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