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## First Women

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# First Women

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Marilyn L. Grady  
Barbara Y. LaCost

References to Native or Indian populations as First Nations people are evident as you travel throughout Canada or examine the writings of Canadian authors. The term, First Nations people, also appears in reports of demographic or census data about Native Americans in the United States.

Perhaps those who write about women leaders should frame their works by referring to First Women. Certainly much of the writing about women and their leadership is groundbreaking. We are at the beginning stages of writing about women in leadership and women who are “firsts” in many of their accomplishments.

For the February 26, 2005, edition of *A Prairie Home Companion*, Garrison Keillor was broadcasting from the College of St. Catherine in Minneapolis-St. Paul. The 100th anniversary of the College, 1905-2005, was mentioned repeatedly throughout the program. In his remarks about the history of the College, Keillor noted, the College was the product of the efforts of the religious sisters who he referred to as the first feminist women. These sisters were “First Women” to have careers and travel. The College of St. Catherine is a visible legacy of the works of these “First Women.”

The manuscripts in this issue of the *Journal of Women in Educational Leadership* reflect the accomplishments of other First Women. Harmer introduces Mary Seacole, a black woman leader. Wynn reports on Leadership-Skilled Women Teachers Who Choose the Classroom over Administration. Arthur and Salsberry provide a blueprint for Mentoring Women Principals. Marchese reflects on the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of the principalship. Giesler provides a book review of Young and Skrla’s *Reconsidering Feminist Research in Educational Leadership*.

A new column in this issue is about writing. “First Things First,” focuses on selecting a topic for writing. There are many First Women whose stories should be told. We hope you’ll choose to write one!

Proposals for presentations at the *19th Annual Women in Educational Leadership Conference* are being accepted! The conference will be October 9-10, 2005, in Lincoln, Nebraska. For information about the conference or proposal guidelines contact Marilyn Grady at [mgrady1@unl.edu](mailto:mgrady1@unl.edu)