EDITORIAL NOTES

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It is with great pleasure that we introduce the inaugural issue of the Journal of Earth Observation and Geospatial Applications (JEOGA). This first volume features nine original research papers spanning diverse themes—from evapotranspiration and vegetation dynamics to urban heat islands, geomorphic mapping, biomass estimation, drought assessment, and the use of Earth observation for emergency management. Collectively, these studies showcase the power of geospatial science to reveal patterns and processes that shape our changing planet. They examine vegetation and hydrological correlations in Colorado, restoration effects in Maryland, seasonal greenness shifts in the Great Smoky Mountains, urban heat disparities in Louisiana and Colorado, terrace mapping in Georgia, urban biomass modeling in Texas, drought patterns across the U.S. Corn Belt, and NASA's efforts to enhance emergency management applications. Together, these contributions advance our understanding of environmental change and demonstrate how remote sensing continues to transform Earth science, workforce development, and applied research.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the authors for their outstanding scholarship and dedication to this first issue. We also sincerely thank AmericaView for their steadfast support of this endeavor, as well as our nine editors, copyeditors, and layout editors whose meticulous efforts made this publication possible. Our appreciation also goes to the University of West Georgia's Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP), Information Technology Services (ITS), and the Ingram Library for their invaluable institutional and technical support. The promotion of research, writing, and workforce development in the geospatial STEM disciplines is essential to fostering innovation and resilience in a rapidly changing world. We also acknowledge the ongoing contributions of U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, and NOAA in monitoring Earth's dynamic natural systems through satellite imagery—tools that underpin much of the work presented here. Looking ahead, JEOGA aims to publish at least two issues each year, continuing to serve as a platform for advancing geospatial science, workforce training, and environmental research for the public good.