

CRLE Monthly Newsletter – August 2022

The mission of the [Center for Research in Leadership and Education \(CRLE\) at Texas Tech University](#) is to provide empirical research, training, and evaluation in collaboration with community partners, using interdisciplinary approaches, on issues that influence educational experiences and outcomes of students, leadership, and policy throughout the PK-20 system.

From the Director: [Dr. Alex Wiseman](#)

- Exciting update! The Center for Research in Leadership and Education (CRLE) requested that our name be changed to the Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education (CIRCLE), and those changes are coming soon!
- The Center's leadership team made this request for three main reasons:
 - (1) The new name emphasizes the role of innovation and change in leadership and educational research. These are key concepts that both describe the mission and activity of the Center more fully;
 - (2) The inclusion of the terms innovation and change align more closely with the research on leadership and education, and reflect the Center's awareness and inclusion of these core concepts in our leadership/education activities and research; and
 - (3) the new name is a more recognizable name and acronym (CIRCLE) for dissemination of research and recognition among researchers, educators, and policymakers alike.
- As a result, we've also asked for a modification to our website's URL. That means we have to wait a little more until the website can be updated, but we'll let you know as soon as the new name is official, and all the changes and updates have been made!

Outreach & Partnership Updates

- The Texas Education Policy Fellowship Program ([TX-EPFP](#)) welcomes 23 education policy leaders from across the state of Texas to the 2022-2023 cohort.
 - From August 8th to August 30th, we will highlight a new fellow each day [@epfptexas](#)
 - Meet all of our new fellows at: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/epfp/meet-the-cohort.php>

Research & Funding Updates

- Levi Johnson, Educational Leadership Policy PhD student, was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Helen Jones Foundation to support the TrUE Transformers Program in 2023. The program was developed in collaboration with CRLE Associate Director Dr. Jacob Kirksey and will support a series of faculty-led projects--including a cadre of undergraduate researchers working on education policy projects under Dr. Kirksey.

New Publication & Reports

- Jacob Kirksey and Joe Elefante, Educational Leadership Policy PhD student, published their study, "[Familiar Faces in High School: How Having the Same Peers from Year-to-Year Links to Student Absenteeism](#)," in the *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk*. They show that high school students have fewer absences in their classes where they have more familiar faces--peers they had in classes in the previous school year.

Recognitions

- Jacob Kirksey was elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Special Interest Group *School Effectiveness and School Improvement*. His term runs through 2024.
- Jon McNaughtan was selected to be the Associate Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology, Leadership, & Counseling (EPLC) in the College of Education.

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