

CIRCLE Monthly Newsletter – September 2022

The mission of the [Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education \(CIRCLE\) 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](#)

- Although schools, colleges, and universities all seem to begin the Fall semester in August, the beginning of September is the traditional start date for schooling. Students and teachers across the kindergarten-through-university spectrum are ‘back to school’ now.
- With all of the back-to-school traditions, there’s often a period at the start of September where there’s more procrastination and less productive activity among those of us who work in and research education. This seeming calm before the storm is sometimes a way of taking a collective breath before moving onward, but sometimes it’s just procrastination.
- Our way of moving beyond these doldrums of the start of the academic year, is to remind ourselves of our intended impact and outcomes, then to link those outcomes to specific outputs. We then map backwards to the activities and resources required to achieve those outputs, outcomes, and impacts.
- The CIRCLE leadership team recently held a day-long planning retreat to do just this. We spent time re-evaluating our goals, assessing our activities, renewing our commitments, and aligning all three across the Center’s various functions and foci. This sort of planning activity provides a clear and collectively agreed upon statement of CIRCLE’s responsibilities and our plans for fulfilling those responsibilities.
- As we move forward, we will keep you updated on minor tweaks to our mission and vision as well as updates to the Center’s organizational structure and key programs, partnerships, and research clusters. It’s the best way we know of to document how our goals are being achieved!

Important News & Opportunities

- [Dr. Hugo Garcia](#) will be a Keynote Speaker at this year’s Faculty Development Opportunity at Texas Tech University’s “Teaching Without Borders” program. Dr. Garcia will lead a panel discussion examining how to effectively assess programing gears to course internationalization. [Register online!](#)

Outreach & Partnership Updates

- In September, the [Texas Education Policy Fellows Program \(EPFP\)](#) holds a 2.5 day in-person fall retreat in Austin Texas, directed by [Dr. Rebecca Hite](#).
 - Our guest speakers include but are not limited to Ms. Mary Kingston Roche (National EPFP Director), Dr. Harrison Keller (Commissioner of Higher Education THECB), and Ms. Kelvey Oeser (TEA Deputy Commissioner of Education and System Support).
 - We invite you to follow our retreat using the #TXEPFP hashtag from our twitter account [@epfptexas](#).
- [CIRCLE Launches new Leadership Training partnering with the Professional Development Academy for Educational Leaders](#). The next cohort will kick-off in January, [sign up here](#).

New Publication & Reports

- [Dr. Hugo Garcia](#) and [Dr. Jon McNaughtan](#) led a team to understand the use of Websites during COVID-19 as tools for information distribution. Read the article [here](#). The team was also recognized by the *Journal of Comparative and International Higher Education* in the [Summer Special Issue!](#)
- Dr. McNaughtan worked with fellow higher education faculty member Dr. Hotchkins and the Director for Diversity at UT Kingsville, Dr. Jaret Lujan to write an [article on the role of college presidents in leading diversity efforts](#).

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