**CIRCLE Monthly Newsletter – October 2022**

*The mission of the* [***Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education (CIRCLE) at Texas Tech University***](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/circle/) *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**](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/our-people/Faculty/alexander_wiseman.php)

* Warm greetings from CIRCLE! It’s October on the calendar, which means that even in Lubbock the mornings are starting to get chilly.
* More importantly, we’re looking forward to an increasingly exciting academic year ahead of us as we see more opportunities for both online and in-person connections and the collaboration and inspiration that these types of interactions bring.
* The Center is poised to build research collaborations with colleagues at research institutes in Texas, the US, and abroad. In particular, we are currently in discussions with the [DIPF | Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education](https://www.dipf.de/en) located in Frankfurt, Germany, around shared research tracks and opportunities for collaboration. More news on this to come soon!
* Other opportunities for innovative research, interaction, and collaboration come from the ExpandED speaker series kicking off this month (see below), ongoing Texas Education Policy Fellows Program events (see below), and a bevy of new research funding proposals both in preparation and being submitted this month.
* Finally, the CIRCLE leadership team had a strategic planning meeting last month that will bring some improvements and expansions to our team structure. Look for more information in future newsletters on how we’re updating the way we structure ourselves to better serve our community, engage in meaningful research, and include diverse voices in the Center’s work moving forward.

**Important News & Opportunities**

* The [ExpandED](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/webinars/policy-brown-bag-series/index.php) speaker series is about to take off again starting on October 18 at 12pm Central. This is an online brown-bag speaker series focusing on issues and research related to education policy, leadership, and innovative change. Sign up to receive the zoom links for our speakers and to read/watch past speakers’ presentations and discussions. [More information linked here](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/webinars/policy-brown-bag-series/index.php).

**Outreach & Partnership Updates**

* Jessica Milam (San Vicente ISD), Austin Posey (San Vincente ISD), and Kelree Brasseaux (A+ Charter Schools, Inc.) recently joined the [High Performance Leadership Academy](https://bit.ly/HPLA-CIRCLE) Fellows.
* The [TX-EPFP](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/epfp/index.php) Fellows met in-person and/or virtually in Austin [September 22nd through the 24th](https://twitter.com/EpfpTexas) to hear from education policy leaders and to discuss among themselves their new policy knowledge, leadership plan, and future contacts / networks in this space. In October, fellows are meeting synchronously to learn more about equity in P-20 education with [Morgan Craven at IDRA](https://www.idra.org/staff/morgan-craven-j-d/).
* Dr. Jessica Gottlieb and Dr. Alex Wiseman recently led the first of two workshops dedicated to strategic planning and program evaluation with the Talent Development Office teams at Ector County ISD. In the first of two sessions, the team at Ector County ISD created program specific logic models and theories of change. The next step is building the evaluation plan and learning methods for program evaluation during the next workshop. CIRCLE provides workshops for strategic planning and program evaluation development. Contact us to find out more!

**Research & Funding Updates**

* It is the grant proposal submission season. We have several large research grant proposals related to CIRCLE’s mission being prepared for submission to the NSF, IES, and others. CIRCLE leadership and researchers alike hope to provide happy reports of successful grant proposals soon!

**New Publication & Reports**

* Dr. Jon McNaughtan recently published an article on perceptions of the roles of presidents in budget and finance in higher education in *New Directions for Higher Education,* located [here.](https://bit.ly/JMpubOctNL)
* Dr. Jacob Kirksey and Teresa Lansford, CIRCLE fellow and Ph.D. candidate, recently presented their paper, “Five days a week, six periods a day: Classes students miss most frequently and associated academic declines,” at the annual conference of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness in Washington D.C. Read a summary of their paper [here](https://bit.ly/JKTLpaperOctNL).
* Dr. Alex Wiseman co-authored a study presented at the annual conference of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) in Washington, DC, with TTU doctoral student Chris McGilvery and others titled, “[A Non-Profit’s Initiative to Support Elementary Teachers’ Creation of Multicultural Classroom Libraries](https://bit.ly/AWSREEOctNL)”.

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[*Visit our CIRCLE website for more updates and information!*](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/circle/)