

## CIRCLE Monthly Newsletter – December 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

- When you work in education, have children in school, or are a student yourself, the academic calendar governs a lot of what you do. Yet for all that we do during the regular academic year, one of the most cherished times, funnily enough, is the holiday break. It provides an opportunity to rest and reflect on what we've accomplished in the previous semester and is often filled with family and friends or sometimes with well-deserved time to yourself.
- This December, we have been finalizing our end of year report, and it's been very rewarding to reflect on all the accomplishments, publications, and value that our CIRCLE directors, faculty fellows, and student scholars have achieved and created in the communities in and near Texas Tech University, across the state, and at the national and international levels as well.
- There's still much more to do for the benefit of students, educators, and their communities in the coming year, which is why we focus on the following when building and implementing CIRCLE-related research, training, and engagement:
  - *Preparation:* We are careful to appropriately and adequately prepare ourselves, our partners, and our communities for research, training or other activities. This may include ensuring that the appropriate infrastructure, resources, and materials are available, but it could also include the knowledge and skill capacity of individuals, too.
  - *Engagement:* We engage fully with the communities where we work and serve by identifying and developing the leadership and direction of our community partners in all the work we do. If CIRCLE is doing an evaluation, we work with our partners so that they are leading the decision-making about which outcomes and processes they need to better understand. We may have the expertise, but our community partners know what is needed in their community better than anyone else.
  - *Leadership:* We lead sustainable and equitable educational change through innovative educational research and policy development, assessment, and implementation. We support the community voices and direction they provide to bring expertise in research, policy, leadership, and development to every project we engage in. Leadership for our CIRCLE teams doesn't mean being a strong arm, it means providing what our community partners need, when they need it, and in the way that it can support their needs the best.
- As we reflect on the accomplishments of CIRCLE in 2022, we know that all of our work results from the dedication, professionalism, and service of our team at the Center, but also on the work of our community partners to prepare, engage, and lead. And, that's where we're headed in 2023, as well!

### Outreach & Partnership Updates

- In December, our fellows in the Texas Education Policy Fellows Program (TX-EPFP) are deciding on the topic and scope of their [policy projects](#). In lieu of small group meetings, the TX-EPFP coordinators (Drs. Rebecca Hite, Jessica Gottlieb, and Jon McNaughtan) are holding office hours for fellows to have some one-on-one time with us to seek ideas and support in their important advocacy work.

- Now that we are in the season of reflection & giving, the TX-EPFP would like to share our endowment in memory of (a) [#TXEPFP](#) fellow/s who have passed away. We honor them by collecting funds to provide scholarships to incoming fellows to continue their education policy advocacy: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/epfp/make-a-donation.php>
- In mid-November, a CIRCLE team consisting of Drs. Gottlieb, Kirksey, and Wiseman, along with Dr. Rosa Chavez and Teresa Lansford, participated in a three-day workshop at the [DIPF: Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education](#) in Frankfurt, Germany. Three key areas of research collaboration were developed (education policy-to-practice transfer; teacher shortage; teacher preparation). The CIRCLE/DIPF teams are in the process of developing a research conference grant proposal to bring DIPF colleagues to Texas Tech University in the future.

### Research & Funding Updates

- Dr. Jon McNaughtan finalized two contracts with Communities in Schools to evaluate the [Texas Education Agency After School Programs](#).
- Kristin Mansell recently presented her paper, "[Examining the Social Network of #Utpol and Its Role in Education Policy in Utah](#)," at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management annual conference in Washington, DC.
- Angela Crevar, Dr. Praveen Dubey (Educational Leadership Policy, Ph.D., '22), and Dr. Alex Wiseman presented their paper, "Missing the Mark? Communication in Traditional, Hybrid, and Online Schools to Promote Equitable Parental Engagement," at the annual conference for the University Council for Educational Administration in Seattle, Washington.
- Dr. Jacob Kirksey, Teresa Lansford, and Angela Crevar presented their paper, "[CTE Teacher Preparation and Turnover in Rural School Districts: Differences in Labor Market Trends Following the Passage of Texas House Bill 5](#)," at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management annual conference in Washington, DC.

### Publications & Reports

- Dr. Jon McNaughtan and colleagues recently published an article titled "[Reducing the Loss of Community College Students who Demonstrate Potential in STEM](#)" in *Research in Higher Education* focused on the barriers to success for high-potential community college students in STEM.
- A recent op ed in [Times Higher Education](#) by Dr. Jon McNaughtan and Texas Tech colleagues addressed the role of leaders in Remote Work Policy development.
- Dr. Rebecca Hite and Dr. Taylor-Hall (Curriculum and Instruction, Ph.D., '19) recently published an article "[School-Level Implementation of a State-Wide Professional Development Model for Developing Globally Competent Teachers](#)" in *Teacher Development* focused on studying the policy implementation of a state-wide professional development initiative at the school level.
- Drs. Jessica Gottlieb and Jacob Kirksey published a policy brief, "[Innovations in University-Based Teacher Preparation: Comparing the 'Grow Your Own' Alternative to the Traditional Program at Texas Tech](#)." Their study shows that students of new teachers trained in the Texas Tech Teacher Education Department's Educator Preparation Programs exhibit stronger math and reading gains relative to other programs across the state.

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*People mentioned in this month's newsletter:*

*[Dr. Alexander W. Wiseman](#), Professor and Director of CIRCLE*

*[Dr. Jessica Gottlieb](#), Assistant Professor and Associate Director of CIRCLE*

*[Dr. Jacob Kirksey](#), Assistant Professor and Associate Director of CIRCLE*

*[Dr. Rebecca Hite](#), Associate Professor and Associate Director of CIRCLE*

*[Dr. Jon McNaughtan](#), Associate Professor and CIRCLE Faculty Fellow*

*[Dr. Hugo Garcia](#), Associate Professor and CIRCLE Faculty Fellow*

*Angela Crevar, Ph.D. Candidate and CIRCLE Scholar*

*Kristin Mansell, Ph.D. Candidate and CIRCLE Scholar*

*Teresa Lansford, Ph.D. Candidate and CIRCLE Scholar*

*Dr. Rosa Chavez, Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University*

*Dr. Praveen Dubey, Clinical Assistant Professor at Arizona State University*

*Dr. Debra Taylor-Hall, Science Consultant*

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