



CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH IN CHANGE, LEADERSHIP, AND EDUCATION (CIRCLE)

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/circle/>

The Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education (CIRCLE) is a pioneering hub for transformative research and collaborative engagement at the intersection of educational research, policy, leadership, and change dynamics. Situated within the College of Education at Texas Tech University, CIRCLE serves as a catalyst for innovation, inquiry, and positive change in education and leadership contexts.

CIRCLE's Mission

The mission of the Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education (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.

What Does CIRCLE Do?

1. Community Engagement & Partnerships
 - a. School Districts: Lubbock ISD, Ector County ISD, Midland ISD
 - b. Texas Education RP3 (Research-Practice-Policy Partnership Network)
 - c. Service Providers: Professional Development Academy
 - d. International Research Organizations: DIPF/Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education (Germany); Institute for Education, University of Tübingen (Germany)
2. Professional Development & Speakers
 - a. Texas Education Policy Fellows Program (TX-EPFP)
 - b. Educational Leadership Fellows Program (ELFP)
 - c. ExpandedED (10 online brown bags in 2023-2024)
 - d. Special Events: Data is Bigger in Texas (featuring Dr. Cathy Horn, Dean, UH COE)
 - e. Pre-Conference Workshops: Association for Education Finance & Policy (AEFP) & American Educational Research Association (AERA)
 - f. RECESS: Research, Evaluation, and Collaboration for Educational Success Summit
3. Research & Evaluation
 - a. Texas HB5 and Academic/Career Trajectories of Texas High School Graduates
 - b. Participation in Undergraduate Research and Links to Postsecondary and Labor Market Outcomes

- c. Community College Finance
- d. Assessments of the Teacher Incentive Allotment
- e. Evaluation of multiple programs including Opportunity Culture implementation, School District ACE Programs, Principal Internship initiatives
- f. Teacher Preparation Programs
- g. And more!

Why Affiliate with CIRCLE?

1. Cutting-Edge Research: CIRCLE fosters an environment of rigorous, interdisciplinary research. Researchers affiliated with CIRCLE have the opportunity to engage in groundbreaking studies that address pressing issues in education, leadership, and social change.
2. Collaborative Networks: CIRCLE thrives on collaboration. Affiliates benefit from a network of researchers, educators, policymakers, and thought leaders who are passionate about making a difference in the fields of education and leadership.
3. Innovation & Creativity: CIRCLE encourages innovative thinking and creative problem-solving. Researchers and professionals affiliated with CIRCLE have the freedom to explore new ideas and approaches, fostering a culture of innovation.
4. Impactful Change: CIRCLE is committed to translating research into tangible action. Researchers can align their work with the center's mission to effect meaningful, positive change in educational practices, leadership development, and broader societal contexts.
5. Professional Development: Affiliates can enhance their professional development through CIRCLE's workshops, seminars, and conferences. These events provide opportunities to learn from experts, share insights, and stay updated on the latest trends and best practices.
6. Grants and Funding: CIRCLE is supportive of affiliates in securing research grants and funding opportunities. The center provides guidance, available resources, and connections to help researchers advance their projects.
7. Leadership Development: CIRCLE is not only a research hub but also a leader in leadership development. Affiliates can engage in programs that enhance their leadership capacity, policy skills, and contribute to the implementation of meaningful educational change.
8. Student Engagement: CIRCLE provides opportunities for students to get involved in research projects, fostering a rich learning environment. Researchers can mentor and shape the next generation of scholars and leaders while also collaborating with community partners.
9. Real-World Impact: Research conducted at CIRCLE has the potential to impact policy and practice at local, national, and global levels. Affiliates can be part of research endeavors that drive real-world change.

What are the advantages of being a CIRCLE Affiliate?

As a CIRCLE affiliate, there is no specific time obligation or commitment, but there are some advantages for those who accept the invitation. These advantages include:

- Notification of limited submission opportunities for grants and fellowships
- Consultation on your grant proposals to include an education innovation, policy, leadership, or change component
- Availability to be co-PIs, key personnel, or administrative support on education innovation, policy, leadership, or change relevant grant proposals & projects
- Invitation to attend special CIRCLE events and advance notice in some instances
- Opportunity to submit content for the CIRCLE newsletter and take advantage of other methods to promote the work of our affiliates to various audiences
- Opportunity to write and publish white papers and policy briefs and have them published through the Center
- Opportunities for your students to be involved/mentored in CIRCLE initiatives, activities and events

Becoming a CIRCLE Affiliate also serves as a signal of your intent to be involved in interdisciplinary education-related innovation, policy, leadership, and change research work. As opportunities arise, we'll know who may be interested!

Apply to become an Affiliate

Affiliates bring a wide range of professional research experiences and provide input to help shape the future direction of CIRCLE.

Affiliate Commitments

- Attend 2-3 CIRCLE activities a year, including speaker series, conferences, workshops, or pre-conference workshops.
- Write/submit a policy brief for CIRCLE once a year.
- Provide information about publications, awards, and fellowships once a year for the annual report.
- Contribute to CIRCLE's community by co-organizing events, presenting CIRCLE-related research at the annual summit, or serving as a mentor for a volunteer student researcher.
- Acknowledge CIRCLE in conference papers and published work that was conducted with CIRCLE-related funding, with CIRCLE affiliates or community partners, or that received feedback from CIRCLE associates.
- Promote CIRCLE events and accomplishments on your own social media and with your professional networks.

How to Become an Affiliate

Faculty members interested in becoming affiliates should send the following information to circle.educ@ttu.edu:

- A cover letter expressing interest in becoming a member of the CIRCLE Affiliated Faculty, a description of current and planned research related to CIRCLE's mission, and a plan for sustained participation in CIRCLE (see the list of commitments above and describe how you plan to participate in the community).
- A current CV.

Applications are reviewed by the CIRCLE Director and Board. Affiliates are appointed for three-year terms and membership may be renewed by CIRCLE's Board.