

A LETTER FROM CIRCLE'S DIRECTOR

This year has been, and will continue to be, one of transition for the organization, but we are confident that CIRCLE is well-positioned to do important work in the years ahead.

Let us begin with the changes. CIRCLE's founding director, Bill Galston, will be leaving the University of Maryland at the end of the calendar year to assume a new position as a Senior Fellow in the Brookings Institution's Governance Studies Program. At the same time, he will be stepping down as CIRCLE's director, and Peter Levine, who has served as deputy director since July 2001, will take his place. Galston will remain affiliated with CIRCLE as a senior advisor, spending roughly 20 percent of his time on CIRCLE affairs through the end of 2006. We are confident that this transition will be smooth and that the organization will not miss a beat.

Another departure may turn out to be harder to address. Our superb executive assistant, Demetria Sapienza, who has served CIRCLE so well, is heading toward a well-deserved retirement and a newly constructed dream house near the North Carolina shore. With a heavy heart, we are in the early stage of looking for her successor.

Carrie Donovan, our excellent youth director, moved to California this summer and has taken a position with Cal Corps, the public service center at UC-Berkeley. We were delighted to hire Abby Kiesa as her replacement. Abby previously worked for Madison House at the University of Virginia and then the national office of Campus Compact. We are also at the final stages of hiring a new research associate who will participate in many aspects of

our work, especially the secondary data-analysis that produces CIRCLE fact sheets and press releases.

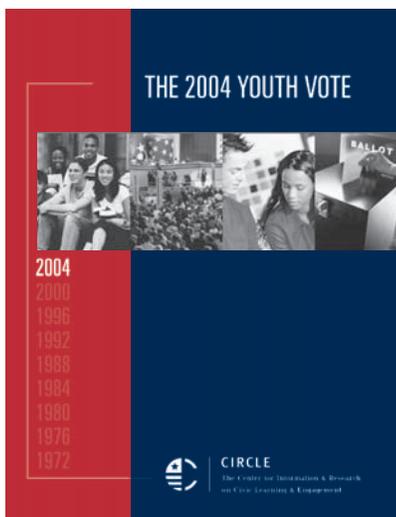
CIRCLE's financial situation is secure for the time being. Last July, The Pew Charitable Trusts made a grant of \$1.3 million. In addition to providing core operating support for CIRCLE, Pew's funding will allow us to conduct a national survey of youth, based largely on the poll fielded in 2002 by Scott Keeter and colleagues. We are committed to making the data from that survey public in a timely way. In addition, the Carnegie Corporation of New York has made a \$1 million grant, effective January 1, 2006, to support CIRCLE's research on civic education for young people of high school age. We will reserve half of that money for external research grants. The Request for Proposals was released on November 1 (see p. 9 for details), and our grants will be made in the spring.

Meanwhile, we continue to manage a set of "youth-led" research projects funded by the Cricket Island Foundation, and are actively seeking other opportunities to study various aspects of youth civic engagement. CIRCLE's staff also continues to be extremely active in coalitions and networks, especially the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools and networks for youth voting, service-learning, and civic education at the college level.



William A. Galston, Director

Peter Levine, Deputy Director



NEW REPORT ON YOUTH VOTING

CIRCLE has released a comprehensive report chronicling the youth vote from 1972-2004. The report contains information on youth voting patterns by race, ethnicity, gender, and educational and marital status. The report can be downloaded from CIRCLE's web site at www.civicyouth.org. To request a hard copy, please email Demetria Sapienza at dsapienz@umd.edu.



CIRCLE

The Center for Information & Research
on Civic Learning & Engagement