

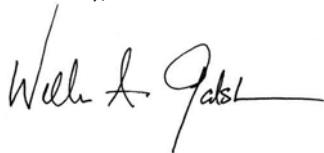
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the first edition of *Around the CIRCLE: Research and Practice*. CIRCLE's mission is to offer timely, accurate, nonpartisan information and research on the civic life of America's young people, ages 15-25. Through this newsletter, we hope to provide you with snapshots of the research that describes and explains key trends in the civic life of young people, and also of the programs and policies that can enhance their civic life.

Our first report, "The Civic Mission of Schools," produced in partnership with the Carnegie Corporation of New York, documents a new consensus among researchers and practitioners concerning the current status of civic education in the United States and strategies for creating more effective civic education programs in America's schools. This report exemplifies our determination to bring together the concerns of academic inquiry and frontline practice by bringing the best research to bear on the vital task of enhancing youth civic development and civic engagement.

Since our founding in 2001, CIRCLE has been dedicated to disseminating the results of research to policy makers, practitioners, journalists, and other interested scholars in various disciplines. We encourage you to visit our Web site, www.civicyouth.org, for further information.

Sincerely,



William A. Galston

CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement) promotes research on the civic and political engagement of Americans between the ages of 15 and 25. Although CIRCLE conducts and funds research, not practice, the projects that we support have practical implications for those who work to increase young people's engagement in politics and civic life. CIRCLE is also a clearinghouse for relevant information and scholarship. CIRCLE was founded in 2001 with a generous grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts and is based in the University of Maryland's School of Public Affairs.

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