



WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION FACULTY RESEARCH STUDY 2008



Between 2001 and 2007, the Center for Civic Education has conducted sixteen institutes, seminars, and workshops for school of education college and university faculty. These professional development opportunities were designed to deepen participants' understanding of the importance of civic education and to facilitate the exchange of best practices in civic education across various domains of learning.

MAIN RESEARCH FINDINGS

The data from this evaluation suggest that Center-sponsored professional development for college and university faculty has had a positive effect on the attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors of university faculty. The 130 respondents reported an increased understanding of civic education, the pedagogies associated with civic learning, and the ways in which they can make civic education a more prominent theme in their courses, institutions, and states. Respondents rated Center-sponsored events favorably when compared to other professional development experiences, citing them as positive influences on their teaching, research, and service. Responses indicated that Center-sponsored professional development events have been well-organized, thoughtfully executed, and meaningful, influencing not only their perceptions of civic education but also their professional practices. A few of the more significant findings included the following:

- Center-sponsored professional development has influenced 164 conference papers or presentations, 59 published journal articles, 24 published book chapters, 17 published books, and 47 grant proposals.
- Fifty-four percent of participants reported that their students use Center materials in their teaching.
- A majority of participants were extremely satisfied when comparing their experiences to other professional development events.
- Center-sponsored professional development has positively affected the teaching, research, and service of its participants.
- As a result of their participation, civic education has become a more prominent theme in the college and university classes of participants.
- Sixteen of seventeen interviewed respondents indicated that they use ideas from Center-sponsored professional development to frame issues and class discussions in their course.
- Fourteen of seventeen interviewed respondents indicated that they use books and materials distributed at Center-sponsored professional development in their classes.