

# RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

*The battle for the soul of our nation will be won or lost in our classrooms.™*  
—Jack Miller



# RISING TO THE CHALLENGE



*"When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir."*  
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

**In America**, our challenge as a people is to rise to the ideals laid out by our founders. Over the past several years, our country has stalled in its progress and commitment toward that American "promissory note"—and it shows. But it's not enough to simply speak out. The Jack Miller Center is focused on solving that problem with action. Thank you for investing in the solution with us in 2021, and helping us achieve that progress.

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Cover photos from JMC programming, clockwise from top left: University of Missouri students; Professor Lucas Morel of Washington & Lee; Student at City College of New York; Students at University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Students at a JMC Constitution Day Event; Scholars in session at the 2021 JMC Summer Institute

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

## INVESTING FOR RESULTS



Dear Supporters (Investors) and Friends,

Problems abound. What is in short supply are solutions.

At the JMC, we are focused on solutions and on results. We all know about the problems in our educational system, what our kids are being taught and what they are not being taught.

In our area, civics, we know that kids graduate high school knowing almost nothing about our founding principles and history. Most of them couldn't even pass the simple citizenship test. In fact, some of what students are learning is false, even harmful.

The good news is that parents are getting involved and very importantly, improved education is becoming a major campaign issue. Thanks to your past investments, the JMC has already seen remarkable results and is in a position to take advantage of this opportunity and go big.

For the past 17 years, we have been "the boots on the ground" working to turn the tide, at both the university level (pg. 9), and since 2016, at the K-12 level (pg. 14).

As Chairman of the Board, I am very involved, but I am also a donor to this cause, just like you. And as a donor, I am very encouraged by the "return on investment." In fact, I have decided to do even more.

So, I challenged the staff at the JMC early last year to build a plan showing how we could significantly expand our work. The team responded with enthusiasm. They created a strategic plan based on tripling our annual budget, which will then allow the Center to continue expanding its nationwide programming exponentially as we approach our country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026.

I am confident in the future, and I have decided to increase my investment to help build the staffing and infrastructure to get it done. I hope you will continue to partner with us as we aim to transform American civic education from K-12 through college. Your support is essential.

Please accept my deepest thanks. Our donors are enabling us to make a real difference.

Would you like to discuss this more? Please contact Mike Carroll, our executive director of development, at (484) 436-2067 or [mcarroll@gojmc.org](mailto:mcarroll@gojmc.org).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Jack Miller  
JMC Founder and Chairman of the Board

## OUR MISSION

The Jack Miller Center is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to reinvigorating education in America's founding principles and history, an education vital to thoughtful and engaged citizenship.

We work to advance the teaching and study of America's history, its political and economic institutions, and the central principles, ideas, and questions arising from the American and Western traditions—all of which continue to animate our national life.

We support professors and educators through programs, resources, fellowships, and more, to help them teach our nation's students.

## WORKING TO PRESERVE THE AMERICAN DREAM

In 1956, Jack Miller started an office supply business, Quill Corporation, with a phone in the back of his dad's poultry shop. Over the years, he and his brothers grew it into one of the largest office products distributors in the nation. After selling it in 1998, he said he wanted to give back to the country that had made his success possible.

Jack became concerned about the degradation of civic education and how that was affecting our country. He worried whether future generations would have the same opportunities to achieve their own dreams if we did not do more to educate our young people. So, Jack decided to take action and build the Jack Miller Center to create change.

Now, with hundreds of like-minded donors and a national network of over 1,000 college educators, we are improving civic education in classrooms across the country, from K-12 through college. Jack remains active as a donor and Chairman of the Board.

# OUR STRATEGY

Our strategy recognizes that mandates do not change minds. We firmly believe that our founding principles are the best known basis for a free society. To have the widest reach, we maintain a non-partisan, non-sectarian stance and an unyielding commitment to open discourse and the free exchange of ideas.

JMC's unique approach is to leverage the power of educators to bring our nation's history and founding principles back into the minds and hearts of young Americans. We begin with professors who share our mission. We provide programs and resources, foster their teaching careers, and together, strengthen civic education at all levels, from K-12 through college.

One professor or teacher can reach 5,000 students or more during a 35-year career. That is why the JMC invests in educators: to produce the greatest, most cost-effective outcomes.

# OUR STORY

Our project began in 2004, when Jack Miller met with 50 professors to discuss the lack of civics education at the undergraduate level. After determining a path forward, Jack built a team to produce a series of professional development programs and resources for college professors to strengthen education in America's founding principles and history.

In 2007, after a three-year successful pilot project, the Jack Miller Center incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation and expanded its programs for scholars. With the support of more donors, it began fostering direct student education through a variety of college campus events. It soon began establishing JMC campus centers with partner professors to offer speaker series, Constitution Day events, group activities, courses, and more.

In 2012, JMC co-founded the first peer-reviewed academic journal devoted to American political thought. Published by University of Chicago Press, subscriptions have grown to include more than 6,000 colleges and universities worldwide.

In 2016, JMC launched a K-12 Civics Initiative in Chicago, offering content-based graduate courses and seminars designed for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Its success led to the expansion of the initiative to six states with a goal of reaching all 50.

With the generosity of our donors and the work of our dedicated faculty partners, we are making great progress. But there is still much more work to be done to reach all levels of our educational institutions.



# Our Approach

*University of Nevada students attend a JMC program on Frederick Douglass with guest speaker, Professor Lucas Morel (Washington and Lee Univ.)*

Our faculty partners are at the center of our mission. Each professor brings a unique expertise and talent for teaching America's founding principles and for getting students engaged. We work with these professors to reach all levels of education, from new courses for undergraduates to professional development programs for K-12 teachers.

## **CONTINUOUSLY BUILD A DIVERSE NETWORK OF PROFESSORS**

JMC recruits, engages, and supports a national community of entrepreneurial scholars who share our mission. We connect them with peers and senior scholars, conduct programs to build their careers and foster new scholarship, and help them gain support and grow their influence.

## **STRENGTHEN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION**

We work with our professor network to develop JMC partner centers of learning on campuses. These centers offer courses, special events, reading groups, fellowships, and other activities that give students and future leaders an understanding of America's vision and history.

## **RESTORE K-12 CIVICS EDUCATION**

Together with our professors, we reinvigorate K-12 civics education through innovative graduate courses and professional development programs for teachers. These programs give K-12 civics educators the knowledge and content they need to help their students connect America's history and founding ideals to civic life today.

## **ACHIEVE NATIONAL SCALE**

Our mission is to reach educational institutions at every level and in every region across the United States. Working closely with our donor and professor partners, we use an aggressive methodical approach to achieve national scale, state-by-state and school-by-school.

# JMC by the Numbers

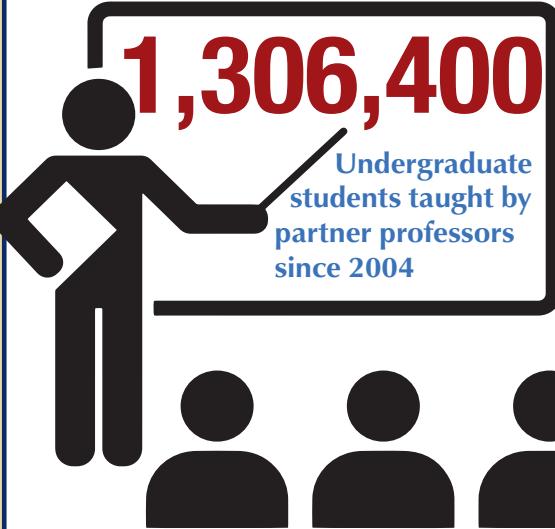


**46**  
States with active JMC fellows  
and partner professors




**100/100**  
★★★★★  
score for Finance & Accountability  
on Charity Navigator

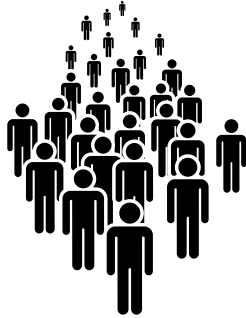
Since 2004, we have generated over  
**\$160,000,000**  
in donations and matches  
toward our mission



**1,306,400**  
Undergraduate  
students taught by  
partner professors  
since 2004




**201**  
Postdoctoral  
teaching  
fellowships  
for promising  
scholars



**109** 

Centers of  
teaching and study  
developed on  
college campuses



**970** Middle and high school  
teachers participated  
in JMC professional  
development

Fostered the teaching careers of  
**1,014** on **319**  
Partner Professors College Campuses



**32,600**  
College courses on  
America's founding principles and  
history since 2004


**81** 

Graduate courses and  
seminars for middle and  
high school teachers



**17,773**  
views of JMC's Declaration of  
Independence video series

K-12 Regional Initiatives in 6 States =  
**225,700**  
Middle and high school students  
taught by alumni teachers



# Campuses with JMC-Affiliated Scholars

Since 2004, JMC has supported the growth and professional development of over 1,000 scholars on over 300 colleges and university campuses across the country.

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	CUNY Graduate Center	Marquette University	Southeast Missouri State University	University of Massachusetts-Boston
American Jewish University	Dartmouth College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	University of Michigan
American University	Davidson College	Mercer University	Southern Illinois University	University of Mississippi
Amherst College	DePaul University	Metropolitan State University of Denver	Southern Methodist University	University of Montana
Arizona State University	Drury University	Miami University	Southern Utah University	University of Nebraska-Omaha
Arkansas Tech University	Duke University	Michigan State University	St. John's College-Annapolis	University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Ashland University	Duquesne University	Middlebury College	St. John's College-Santa Fe	University of New Hampshire
Assumption University	Eastern Connecticut State University	Middle Tennessee State University	Stanford University	University of New Mexico
Augustana University	Eastern Michigan University	Millersville University	Stephen F. Austin State University	University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Ave Maria University	Eastern Nazarene College	Misericordia University	SUNY-Geneseo	University of North Texas
Ball State University	Emory University	Mississippi College	SUNY-Oswego	University of Notre Dame
Baruch College	Fairfield University	Mississippi State University	Syracuse University	University of Oklahoma
Bates College	Florida Atlantic University	Missouri State University	Temple University	University of Oregon
Baylor University	Florida International University	Montclair State University	Texas A&M International University	University of Pennsylvania
Belhaven University	Florida State University	Montana State University-Billings	Texas A&M University	University of Portland
Bellarmine University	Framingham State University	Morehead State University	Texas State University	University of Puget Sound
Belmont Abbey College	Furman University	Mount St. Mary's University	Texas Tech University	University of Richmond
Benedictine College	Gardner-Webb University	Naval War College	The King's College, New York	University of South Florida
Berry College	George Fox University	New York University	Towson University	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Bethel University	George Mason University	New York University Law School	Trinity College	University of Texas at San Antonio
Biola University	George Washington University	North Carolina State University	Trinity University	University of Texas-Austin
Black Hills State University	Georgetown University	North Dakota State University	Troy University	University of Virginia
Boise State University	Georgia College	Northern Illinois University	Tufts University	University of Washington
Boston College	Georgia Gwinnett College	Northland College	Tulane University	University of West Florida
Bowdoin College	Georgia International University	North Park University	Union University	University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Brandeis University	Georgia Southern University-Armstrong	Northwestern Pritzker School of Law	United States Military Academy at West Point	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Brigham Young University	Gonzaga University	Northwestern University	University of Alabama-Birmingham	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Brigham Young University-Idaho	Gordon College	Northwood University	University of Alaska-Anchorage	University of Wisconsin-Stout
Brown University	Goucher College	Oglethorpe University	University of Arizona	Ursinus College
California Institute of Technology	Great Lakes Christian College	Ohio University	University of California, Berkeley	Utah State University
California State University-Chico	Hamilton College	Oklahoma Baptist University	University of California, Davis	Utah Valley University
California State University-Fresno	Hampden-Sydney College	Oklahoma State University	University of California, Los Angeles	Vanderbilt University
California State University-Sacramento	Harvard University	Old Dominion University	University of Central Arkansas	Villanova University
Campbell University	Hillsdale College	Oregon State University	University of Central Florida	Virginia Tech
Carnegie Mellon University	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Patrick Henry College	University of Chicago	Wake Forest University
Carroll College	Hood College	Pepperdine University	University of Chicago Law	Washington and Lee University
Carthage College	Houghton College	Pomona College	University of Cincinnati	Washington College
Catholic University of America	Houston Baptist University	Princeton University	University of Colorado	Washington University in St. Louis
Cedarville University	Howard University	Providence College	University of Colorado-Springs	Westmont College
Central Michigan University	IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law	Purdue University	University of Connecticut	Wheaton College
Christendom College	Indiana University	Queens College, CUNY	University of Dallas	Willamette University
Christopher Newport University	Iona College	Reed College	University of Florida	Williams Baptist University
City College of New York	Jacksonville State University	Regent University	University of Georgia	Wingate University
Claremont Graduate University	Jewish Theological Seminary	Rhodes College	University of Houston	Winona State University
Claremont McKenna College	John Brown University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Wofford College
Clayton State University	John Jay College of Criminal Justice	Rogers State University	University of Illinois-Chicago	Wyoming Catholic College
Clemson University	Johns Hopkins University	Roosevelt University	University of Iowa, College of Law	Xavier University
Coastal Carolina University	Johnson County Community College	Rutgers University	University of Kansas	Xavier University of Louisiana
Colgate University	Kennesaw State University	Saint Ambrose University	University of Kentucky	Yale Law School
College of Charleston	Lake Forest College	Saint Mary's University	University of Louisiana-Lafayette	Yeshiva University
College of the Holy Cross	Lee University	Saint Vincent College	University of Maryland	
College of William and Mary	Le Moyne College	Salve Regina University	University of Massachusetts	
Colorado College	Liberty University	Sam Houston State University		
Columbia University	Linfield University	Samford University		
Corban University	Louisiana State University	San Jose State University		
Cornell College	Louisiana Tech University	Seattle Pacific University		
Cornell University	Loyola University, Chicago	Seton Hall University		
Creighton University	Loyola University, Maryland	Shenandoah University		
	Loyola University, New Orleans	Skidmore College		
	Macalester College			



# JMC's Growing Community of Professors: The Engines of Change

The Jack Miller Center continuously works to grow its nationwide network of professors who share the mission to reinvigorate education in America's founding principles and history. But it is so much more than a professional network.

We call it our Community of Professors. These scholars and educators share a dedication to the serious study and teaching of the principles at the heart of our republic. They represent a variety of viewpoints, bound together by the belief that a self-governing nation needs a citizenry that understands its country's history and foundational ideas.

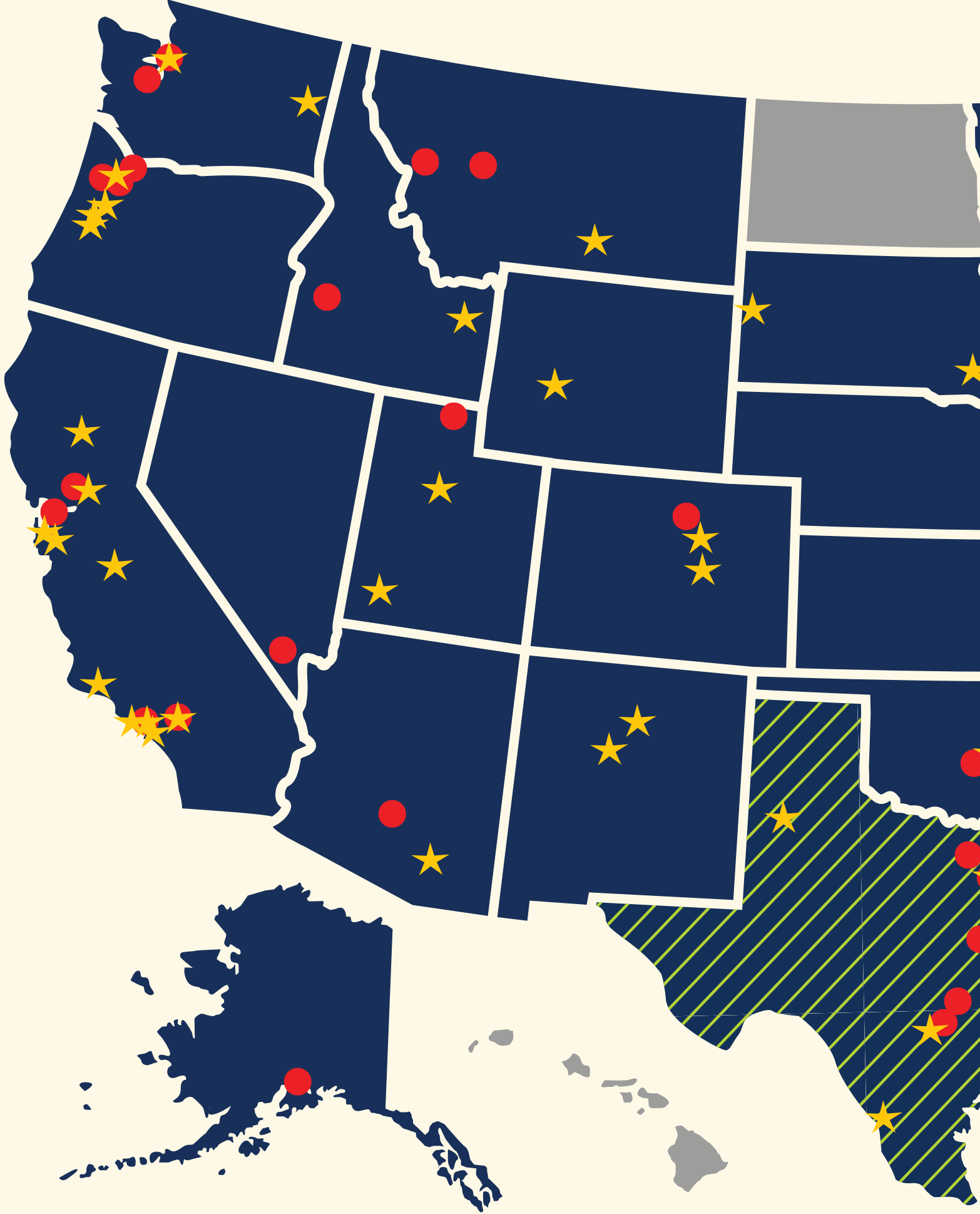
This national community is the bedrock of our efforts, from fostering undergraduate education to developing graduate programs for K-12 teachers.

We identify young scholars who share our mission and bring them together in JMC Summer Institutes with peers and senior scholars. Then we support their career development and provide ongoing opportunities to learn and connect.

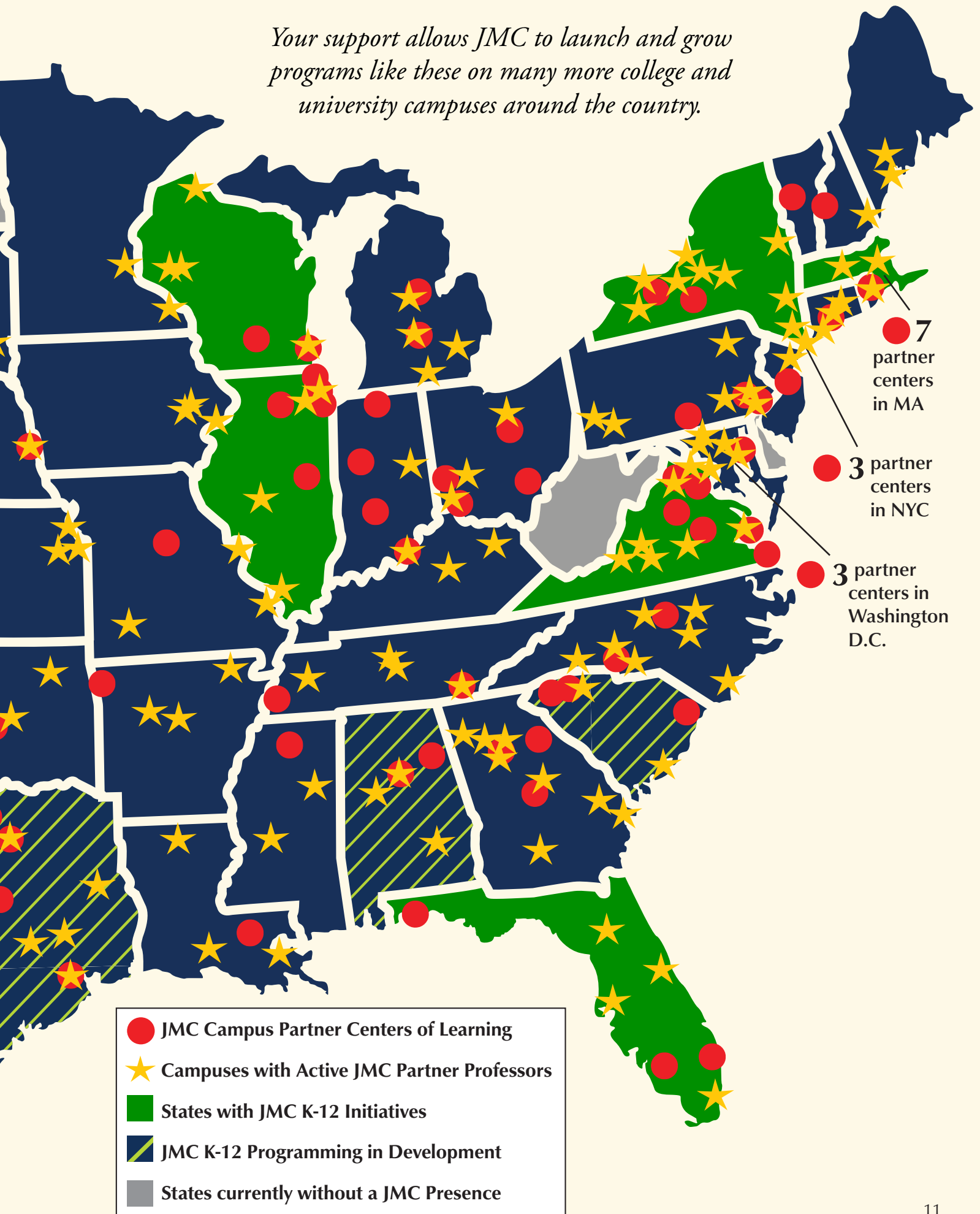
It is not uncommon for our fellows to say that they felt they were working and teaching in isolation before their involvement with JMC. Our community of professors gives them a much-needed source of support and collaboration.



*Scholars discuss Lincoln's political thought with Professor Diana Schaub at JMC's 2021 Summer Institute.*



*Your support allows JMC to launch and grow programs like these on many more college and university campuses around the country.*



## Campus Program Spotlights

# Professors Use Creativity to Bring Real Change to Campus



University of Colorado-Boulder

## Bringing Civics to Future Engineers

Understanding our nation's founding principles cannot be reserved for political science students. In fact, it's critical that our nation's industry leaders in *all* fields understand our founding principles and history to lead the country forward.

At the University of Colorado-Boulder, JMC faculty partner Dr. Shilo Brooks is helping the university's top engineering students "answer the questions science alone cannot."

Using the liberal arts framework, the Engineering Leadership Program (ELP) "exposes students to the political, moral, and philosophic dilemmas posed by the perpetual advancement of science and technology." With the support of the Jack Miller Center, the ELP brought prominent speakers to campus and offered reading groups to challenge students outside the classroom.



Baylor University

## Making Key Texts More Accessible

In Fall 2021, Baylor University launched the Zavala Program for Constitutional Studies to strengthen civic education for students and the public. The Zavala Program offers lectures, colloquia, reading groups, and professional development for high school teachers.

JMC faculty partner Dr. Jordan Cash started the program to give the Baylor community an opportunity to engage with the Constitution outside the classroom. "These issues are not just in the classroom," Cash said. "They're not just archaic debates. These theories mean something, and we need to understand them if we're going to be able to effect the kind of change we want to see in our political system."

This summer, JMC will support the Zavala Program's first Summer Civics Institute to give Texas high school teachers an opportunity to study key texts in the American political tradition with Baylor professors free of cost.

**We** invest in entrepreneurial professors who are committed to teaching America's founding principles and history. We are one of the only organizations in the country that works directly with professors to build programs on campus that fit the unique needs of each university and student body.

## Coastal Carolina University Race & Politics at the Dinner Table

"Don't discuss politics, race, and religion at the dinner table" is something many of us are accustomed to hearing. But the old adage is being put to the test at Coastal Carolina University, where political discussions at dinner aren't just encouraged — they're essential. JMC's new partner program, the Cincinnatus Center, hosted a group of 16 students to discuss African American Political Thought with JMC faculty partners Dr. Kimberly Hurd Hale, Dr. Drew Kurlowski, and Dr. Michael Promisel.

For many of the students, it was their first time discussing these thinkers and the readings offered a few challenging surprises. "Reading [Frederick Douglass] really surprised me," said senior Brianne Mack-Bingham. "Douglass didn't think America was hopeless... and he had more sympathy for the founders than I would have expected."



## Purdue University Improving Civic Literacy for All

Purdue University, a nationally-ranked school for STEM education, launched a campus-wide effort to improve civic literacy for all undergraduate students. Since 2018, JMC has partnered with Purdue to help them achieve their civic literacy goals. The JMC-sponsored American Political History conference was a resounding success, bringing together top scholars, students, and the public to tackle hot topics in American politics.

The partnership with Purdue is made possible by a generous gift from the late Mr. Howard Witt and Mrs. Marilyn Witt.

*"Purdue is very grateful for the financial and advisory role played by the Jack Miller Center. Civics literacy education is one of the university's foremost priorities, and the Center prompted the development of our new program. As we institute a civics literacy requirement for all Boilermaker undergraduates, we remain indebted to the Center for its advocacy."* – **Mitch Daniels, President of Purdue University**



## Regional K-12 Teacher Education Initiatives

JMC's **Florida** programming grew significantly in 2021. In addition to three summer teacher institutes, JMC conducted joint programs for teachers across the state with the Ashbrook Center and the Bill of Rights Institute in cooperation with the Florida Department of Education. JMC also launched its second virtual seminar series in the fall, which will continue through the 2022 academic year.

Our K-12 Initiative began in **Chicago** with a lead gift from the Harvey L. Miller Family Foundation, and has grown with support from the Brinson Foundation, Northern Trust Charitable Trust, The Crown Family, and other donors. Programs for teachers include workshops, seminars, and graduate courses in partnership with the University of Chicago Graham School and Lake Forest College. In 2019, Mr. John Lillard gave our Chicago efforts long-term footing with a generous gift to JMC's endowment fund.

The first JMC program for **Massachusetts** teachers kicked off in 2021. Support from the John Templeton Foundation enabled JMC to begin a series of content-based graduate courses at Tufts University that will continue in 2022.

Thanks to an anonymous gift received in 2021, JMC will partner with Civic Spirit to conduct a four-day summer institute in **New York City** for teachers at religious schools. JMC has been supporting programming in New York City since 2018.

With generous support from John Lillard, the University of **Virginia's** Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy conducted a five-day summer institute for high school teachers on the American political tradition. Programs in Virginia are expanding, with a summer teacher institute planned at American University in 2022 and a new graduate course for teachers at UVA, thanks to the John Templeton Foundation.

With support from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Mr. Ted Kellner, the John Templeton Foundation, and other donors, JMC's statewide initiative in **Wisconsin** expands further, working with our partners at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and other UW campuses around the state. A series of specially-designed graduate courses and multi-day seminars for middle and high school teachers will help them develop expertise in American political thought and strengthen their civics and history curriculum.



# JMC's K-12 Initiatives: Filling a Major Gap in Civics Education



Education in our nation's founding principles and history should begin long before a student enters college. K-12 teachers play a central role in fostering young students' interest in learning about their country.

Teachers are on the front lines of our society, cultivating thoughtful and informed citizens. When teachers introduce students to primary texts and make them approachable, it builds a commitment to civic understanding and a stronger foundation for upholding our democratic republic.

To support their work in the classroom, JMC's Founding Civics Initiative offers teachers innovative content-based seminars and courses led by top scholars in our national network. Each program helps teachers to deepen their understanding of central texts, debates, and ideas

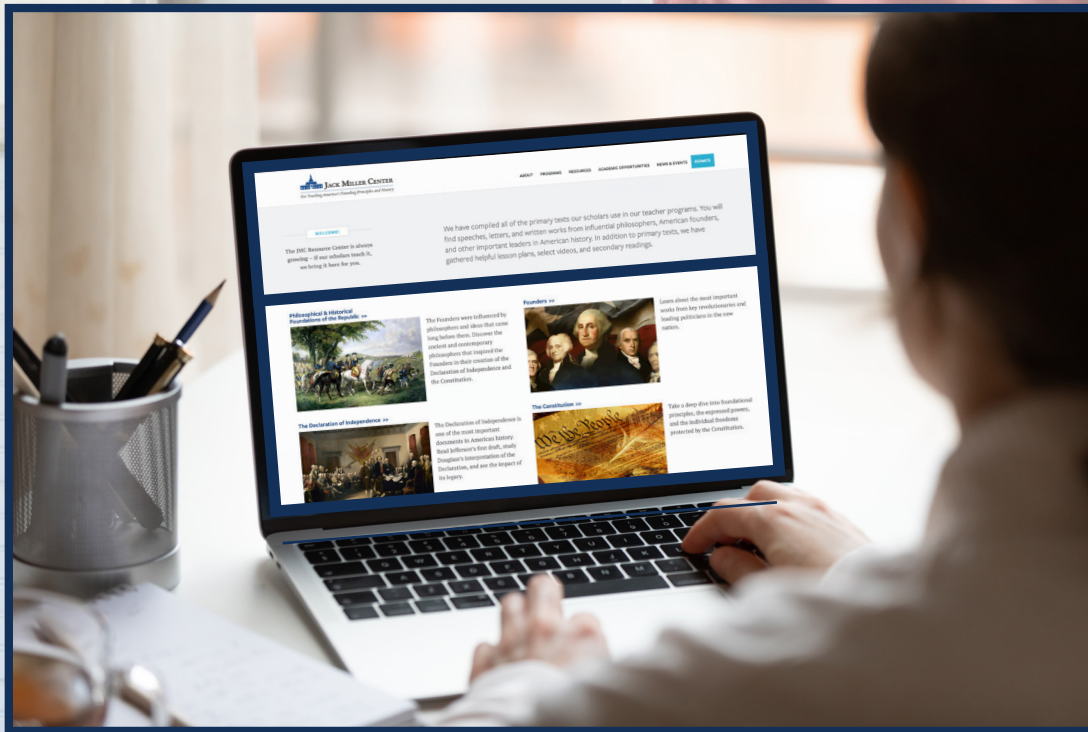
from America's history—topics sorely lacking in K-12 classrooms—and to develop engaging lessons for their own students. The initiative was launched in Chicago in 2016 and its quick success and high demand led JMC to launch new regional programs in New York City, Virginia, Wisconsin, Florida, and Massachusetts.

We can do much more to strengthen civic education nationwide if organizations and individuals work together. In this spirit, the JMC, the Ashbrook Center, and the Bill of Rights Institute developed the American Civics and History Initiative (ACHI), a collaborative statewide teacher education project launched in Florida in 2020. After two successful years, ACHI now has a model for statewide efforts to take across the country. Plans to expand ACHI to Wisconsin, Virginia, and Texas are in the works. *Read more on page 19.*

*"This was the single best education and training experience ever! Well thought out and high quality from beginning to end. You should be tremendously proud of your work, and I'd recommend to any peer that they must attend this training whenever offered."*

*— Florida Teacher  
Survey Response*

# New Online Resource Center Provides Lessons, Activities to Better Engage K-12 Students



This year, the Jack Miller Center launched its Founding Civics Resource Center. The Resource Center contains all the most essential texts that our partner scholars use in programs for K-12 educators.

Previously, only teachers who attended JMC programs would have access to curated texts for middle and high school classrooms. Now, any teacher can benefit from our scholars' expertise in founding documents through the Resource Center.

In addition to the curated texts, the Resource Center houses classroom activities created by JMC Teacher Education Fellow and U.S. History teacher Dr. Danton Kostandarithes.

The new learning modules utilize primary sources directly, ask reflective questions, and challenge students to examine historical events and ideas in new ways.

*"Thank you all so much for making this opportunity for us to embrace primary sources to engage our kiddos with." – Florida Teacher Survey Response*



# Content-Based Graduate Courses for K-12 Teachers Expand to Colleges in Four States



JMC's Founding Civics Initiative has expanded its innovative, content-based graduate courses for K-12 teachers with our partnerships at Lake Forest College, University of Chicago Graham School, Tufts University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Virginia.

The specialized courses fill a much-needed gap in graduate education for teachers. Most advanced courses available to teachers focus only on pedagogy or school administration, doing nothing to help them in the subjects they teach.

JMC graduate courses are taught by top history



and political science scholars from our network and enable K-12 teachers to study their subject matter deeply among fellow educators. Discussions based on primary texts and projects geared toward curriculum development make JMC courses unique and particularly engaging to teachers. Each course emphasizes primary documents so they can more effectively bring those texts to students.

JMC launched the first graduate course in 2016 at Lake Forest College in Chicago, working with JMC professor partner, Evan Oxman. Lake Forest now offers the Civics Program for Teachers, a series of graduate courses focused on American political thought and civics teaching at the high school level.

Thanks to a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, JMC expanded its statewide efforts in Wisconsin and Virginia with new graduate courses at UW-Madison and UVA (beginning in 2022). The gift also made possible a new program in Massachusetts in partnership with Tufts University.

With generous support from the McCormick Foundation, the University of Chicago Graham School will offer a new graduate course for teachers in summer 2022.

# Meet Teachers Who Decided to Become Students Again



"The JMC Summer Teacher Institute at Ave Maria truly enhanced my knowledge and teaching ability. The institute gave me new information to strengthen my curriculum as well as teaching techniques and strategies to approach controversial historical events in my classes. The sessions were led by professors who are masters of their craft and who go above and beyond to inspire creativity and growth in other educators."

– **Joseph Free (Naples, FL)** 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History & Government Teacher  
Summer Teacher Institute at Ave Maria University



"Every time I have participated in a JMC virtual seminar, I have come away with new knowledge for myself and a new lesson for my students. Not only is the networking with other educators invaluable, the teaching applications are really useful and easily adapted to different grades and courses. Most of all, the professors help us to fully understand the content and interconnectedness of key primary source readings that we can then apply in our own classrooms."

– **Molly Smith (St. Petersburg, FL)** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History & Government Teacher  
JMC Virtual Seminar for Teachers



"I appreciate that the Jack Miller Center provides graduate course opportunities for teachers to learn more about our nation's guiding principles from the perspective of an educator. These courses help teachers like me to frame and contextualize the American experience, which is so important for engaging students in the classroom. In my course at Tufts, we dove into the process the founding generation engaged in while writing the Declaration of Independence and how enlightenment values informed its creation. The discussions have helped me guide my own students through the text and explain the ongoing importance of this seminal founding document."

– **Adam DeSimone (Arlington, MA)** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. Civics Teacher  
"The Declaration of Independence," a Graduate Course at Tufts University

JMC is working to take our statewide teacher education programs nationwide. We are contacting legislators, governors, educational leaders, and donors to raise awareness and support. If you are interested in developing a program in your state, please contact Tom Kelly, Director of Civics Outreach, at [tkelly@gojmc.org](mailto:tkelly@gojmc.org) or (484) 436-0033.

# Successful Statewide Teacher Initiative in Florida to Expand to Three New States



Collaboration is the key to success. While the problem in civic education continues to grow, it's time to work smarter and harder to bring the truth back to our nation's classrooms.

The American Civics and History Initiative was created to do just that. In August 2020, the Jack Miller Center partnered with the Bill of Rights Institute and the Ashbrook Center to leverage our individual institutional strengths and make a lasting change in civic education, one state at a time. We focus on teachers, offering them professional development opportunities that provide the knowledge and course material they need to be highly effective in the classroom.

ACHI started in Florida with an ambitious goal: to reach half of the teachers in Florida and create a model for statewide change that can be taken state-by-state across the country. In year one, our project exceeded expectations. Despite the limitations of the pandemic, ACHI conducted 94 events across the three organizations and reached 5,740 teachers through our in-person programming and online resources.

And we are well on our way to reaching our goal of 6,800 teachers by the end of 2022.

The quality and scale of ACHI programming caught the attention of the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). In May 2021, the FDOE requested that ACHI lead professional development for Florida civics and history teachers over a two-week period during summer break. Hundreds of educators were able to take part in a diverse array of programming designed to meet the needs of area teachers and to complement Florida's newly approved civics and history standards. Public/private partnerships of this kind demonstrate the unique potential of ACHI.

Our model is proven. Now, it's time to take our collaborative project to new states. In the near future, we are expanding the American Civics and History Initiative to Virginia, Texas, and Wisconsin. Our partnership will allow us to expand on the existing relationships and programs we have in those states and work with public and private partners to reach more teachers, students, and schools.

*Florida K-12 teachers discuss constitutionalism at an American Civics and History Initiative summer teacher institute at the University of West Florida.*



IN CONGRESS JULY 4, 1776

# THE <sup>☆</sup>VISION

By Jack Miller  
Illustrated by Arkie Ring



entitled them, and that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.-- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, the People have the right to alter or to abolish it, or to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to promote their Safety and Happiness.

## Q&A with Jack Miller

# NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK ENGAGES YOUNG READERS WITH OUR FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

As JMC's Founder and Chairman, Jack Miller has dedicated much of his time and philanthropic support to bringing real change to America's classrooms at all levels. But his advocacy does not stop there. In his new children's book, *The Vision*, Jack encourages young people to learn more about the promise of America laid out in our Declaration and also encourages families to take an active part in telling the story of our great country.



### Why did you write this book?

I believe that America is the best country in the world because of our founding principles and the opportunities they provide. I wrote this book because I believe we need to help children get excited about our founding principles at an earlier age and in creative ways to counter some of the misinformation kids are hearing by the time they are in middle school or even before. *The Vision* was designed to tell the story of the principles of our Declaration of Independence with illustrations that will appeal to a younger audience. My hope is that it serves as a complement to the primary sources they should eventually be reading in school and that it encourages them to learn more about our country.

### In *The Vision*, a grandfather talks with his grandchildren and their friends about the meaning of the Declaration of Independence. What advice do you have for those who would like to have more conversations across generations—especially considering some of the challenges we are facing today?

It's important for parents and grandparents to talk with the youngsters about politics and history. If we can't have civil conversations with loved ones around the dinner table, how can we expect them to happen in the classroom? But older generations are not excused from knowing the truth about our country and our history. I think it all starts with being informed, and parents and grandparents have just as much responsibility to continue learning.

I had an opportunity to work on this book with my grandson Arkie. The experience provided a great opportunity for discussion and a chance to work on something together. Luckily for me, he is a very talented illustrator. I have heard from many that the drawings are one of the biggest highlights of the book.

### Why focus on the vision of America?

I think that's where everything starts. We need to get back to a focus on what America can be, instead of dwelling on the negative. Before America, no other country was established around the idea that all men are created equal. Like all people, Thomas Jefferson had faults, but he gave us that revolutionary principle and we need to understand it to keep moving forward.

### What's the biggest takeaway that you want your young readers to know?

I want all young people to understand that all are created equal and that all are entitled to certain rights, including their life, liberty, and their pursuit of happiness. And that in America we should all be equal at the starting line, and we should get fair play along the way. In this great country, we are free to achieve as much as we can based on our talent and effort. But to paraphrase Ronald Reagan, it is up to each generation to protect that right moving forward.

*The Vision is at the publishers and will be available on Amazon and at museums and bookstores around the country in the fall of 2022.* 

# Meet the Winners of JMC's Inaugural Excellence in Civic Education Award



## Enrico Pucci

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade History Teacher, Manatee School for the Arts  
Sarasota, Florida  
American Civics and History Alumnus**

*How did you get interested in teaching American politics?*

**Enrico:** I have always been interested in the heroes of American history. My mother always tells the story that in preschool, when the teachers started a discussion about Abraham Lincoln, I finished it. Later on, the movie *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* inspired me at a young age to be enthralled with the idea of public service and being a participant in the American story. I believe that a core piece of my job is to pass on our nation's story and values to future generations.

*What's the biggest challenge you face in the classroom?*

**Enrico:** Apathy and an absolute lack of understanding. Our current civic culture is poisonous, and many of our students have detached from it all together.

We are also facing a rising trend of presentism, where we hold history to present-day standards. In my opinion, we have made mistakes in our country and failed forward. Perfecting this nation did not end in 1789, and I'm not interested in stopping that process now. Nor, I think, should my students be. We have to keep moving forward.

*What is different now than when you started teaching?*

**Enrico:** Many of my 8<sup>th</sup> graders run from the news of what's happening in this country because our news is presented in a way that is so biased and combative. We need to produce students who are willing and able to engage in civil discourse and debate. But the students want to run from that conflict and don't want to engage.

Unfortunately, that means that when they get to high school, many of our students don't have the ability to see both sides of anything and get trapped into their own biases.

*What is your favorite part about teaching?*

**Enrico:** I love engaging students in conversations that connect the past to the present. I believe that we are all living histories—meaning we all contribute to the narrative of American history and are responsible for moving it forward.

My favorite part of this job is when I can inspire students to see themselves in America's founding values and core principles and write their own piece of the American narrative moving forward.

Our mission celebrates the importance of having great educators in the classroom. This year, JMC launched its inaugural Excellence in Civic Education Award to recognize two exemplary teachers at the K-12 and university levels. Winners were selected from a competitive pool of applicants and each received a \$1,000 prize.

## Rita Koganzon

Assistant Professor of Politics, University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
JMC Partner Professor



### *What is your favorite part about teaching?*

**Rita:** I love to help my students discover something new. It is so rewarding to see the sense of illumination that students experience when they encounter a new idea and things finally click. Outside of the classroom, I love to follow my students and see how they grow and evolve personally and professionally.

### *How did you get interested in teaching American politics?*

**Rita:** Teaching has always been a top priority for me. Originally, I set out to teach high school. Along the way, I decided to attend graduate school and that's where I really discovered a love for research and exploring these subjects further.

### *What is the biggest challenge you face in the classroom?*

**Rita:** It can be a real challenge to engage students in some of the ancient subjects I teach. Many students come into class with the false assumption that these old texts have nothing to offer when it comes to contemporary politics and culture.

That's why I like to teach what I call wicked texts— or works that show philosophy can be funny and inviting or can challenge their world view. Ultimately, I want my students to realize that the past is complicated and

cannot be whittled down into clean black and white categories.

### *What is the biggest misconception your students have about politics or America?*

**Rita:** Many students seem to be quite weak on the concept of federalism. They seem to think that the federal government can and should run everything.

But the biggest thing that many of my students fail to recognize is the idea that the Constitution animates an entire regime. The principles in the Constitution create a culture that extends to things beyond what the Constitution expressly mentions, like education, family, and religion.

### *In addition to your teaching, you do a lot of work engaging students outside the classroom as well. Why do you think this is important?*

I think it's important to create a community for people who are interested in politics and philosophy to have a place to explore intellectual engagement for its own sake. Many of my students are focused on activities that will simply build their resume. Our external reading groups and events go beyond that to help students discover a love for these classic texts that goes beyond the classroom. I believe that these texts should truly be for everyone and not just academics.

# WHAT IS A GOOD AMERICAN?

By Linda Chavez, JMC Board Member & Chair of the Center for Equal Opportunity

**"The Founding Fathers said these truths are self-evident, but the belief that these truths are knowable by all men was a radical idea at the time and remains one today."**

America is an exceptional nation. When our founders created the vision for our country, America became the first self-governing nation founded on ideas instead of birth, blood, or soil. The promise of America is what has attracted so many diverse people to her shores from the very beginning.

My old boss Ronald Reagan famously said: "You can go to France to live and not become a Frenchman. You can go to live in Germany or Turkey, and you won't become a German or a Turk." "But," he said, "anybody from any corner of the world can come to America to live and become an American."

Yet, our current politics are moving us more toward individual identity, ancestry, and tribalism, and away from the shared American identity.

The year 2021 brought high tensions on questions of immigration, national security, democratic norms, and race relations in our country.

But how many of us have stopped to question, first and foremost, what it means to be an American? What are the ideals that Americans aspire to, the habits of mind and behavior that shape the American character?

I believe the American creed can be simplified to the belief that all persons are equal under the law and owe fidelity to the rule of law. These obligations are entailed in the citizenship oath: to abjure all loyalty to another country or its leaders; to protect and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; to bear arms, engage in noncombatant service and perform work of national importance to protect and serve the country when required by law; and to do so freely and with no reservations.

But we are not merely a country of laws.

American culture has enhanced our understanding of our founding principles and history for centuries and plays a critical part in pursuing the American promise.

Americans believe that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Founding Fathers said these truths are self-evident, but the belief that these truths are knowable by all men was a radical idea at the time and remains one today.



*The Jack Miller Center welcomed Linda Chavez to our Board of Directors in the fall of 2021. Linda is Chair of the Center for Equal Opportunity and director of the Becoming American Initiative. Longtime author, civil rights activist, and political commentator, she has published in newspapers nationwide and appears regularly on cable news.*



No previous nation conceived that all people are equal in their rights — and even our own did not live up to this ideal for nearly 200 years after these rights were delineated.

Yet even this formula doesn't take into full account how one becomes American in a full cultural sense, which is often the most contentious part of the debate over Americanism. Because we are a self-governing people, Americans, more than citizens of nondemocratic nations, need characteristics consistent with the duties of self-governance.

We need to be able to communicate with one another. We need to be self-reliant but also compassionate. We need to be tolerant of others who are different from us and to tolerate dissent from others whose opinions we do not share.


And importantly, because we are a nation whose people are not defined by birth, blood or soil, we need to forge a common identity — one that the Founders understood when they adopted the motto "e pluribus unum," or "out of many, one."

I have dedicated my career to defending the promise of America and opening her doors to the people and ideas that will make her an even greater nation.

That's what drew me to the Jack Miller Center, where I now serve on the board of directors. JMC looks beyond partisan policy differences to remind Americans of the ideas and history that have attracted millions from around the world seeking personal betterment.

The past year has raised many challenges in our political sphere that make American unity seem farther and farther from our reach. But our own history reminds us that we need not agree on everything— indeed, our founders did not, and we are better for it.

We do, however, need a renewed commitment to the American creed and to embrace our identity as Americans.

Luckily for us, there are organizations like the Jack Miller Center that help foster these ideals in a new generation. 

**"...because we are a nation whose people are not defined by birth, blood or soil, we need to forge a common identity — one that the Founders understood when they adopted the motto 'e pluribus unum,' or 'out of many, one.'"**

# 2021 OPERATING BUDGET & FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The year 2021 laid the ground work for transformational change. Our programs expanded at the university and K-12 levels and our staff is growing to meet the increasing demands.

The pandemic restricted our 2021 fundraising and programmatic efforts, however cost savings and deferment from 2021 will allow us going forward to support new programs, campuses, and scholars. It has also enabled us to add a new cadre of online resources to our growing list of educational tools.

As the pandemic restrictions lift across the country, we are seeing a renewed sense of excitement among educators for JMC to continue both our new online resources and to increase in-person programming. Thanks to your support, 2022 will be our most transformational year to date. Our board has approved a \$6.8M operating budget for 2022 to expand our programs around the nation and meet our goals at both the K-12 and university levels.

Observing donor intent is always central to our mission. We are grateful to you and to all our loyal supporters for remaining committed to our shared vision and supportive during an unusual year.

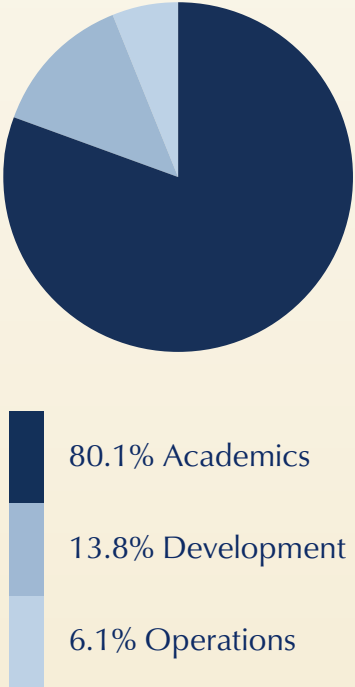
*Our financial statements are audited annually by an independent accounting firm, which certifies that our organization's accounting practices are in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).*

Revenues	
Donations	4,350,806
Interest	134,096
<b>Total Cash Revenues</b>	<b>4,484,902</b>

*\*In addition to cash revenue in 2021, JMC received a total of \$1,040,902 in new pledges to be fulfilled in 2022 or subsequent years.*

Expenses	
<b>Academic Program Expenses</b>	
Partner Programs & Post-Docs	1,792,453
College Educator Programs	750,677
High School Teacher Programs	440,538
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,983,668</b>
<b>Operations Expenses</b>	
Development	516,081
General and Management	227,744
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>743,825</b>
<b>Total Cash Expenses</b>	<b>3,727,493</b>

Division of Expenses



2022 Operating Budget	6,800,000
<i>Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our 2022 board-approved operating budget will be \$6.8 million for expanded programming and staffing.</i>	

*Christendom College students pose with Richard Reinsch II after a public lecture on American democracy at the Tocqueville Forum on Liberal Democracy.*



## THANK YOU

**WHEN 2021 STARTED**, no one knew how the year would progress. A contentious political climate and ongoing pandemic called much into question. But thanks to you, JMC rose to the challenge and came out ahead.

Your steadfast support allowed us to make quick adaptations, rework events, create new online resources, and rally our network of professors and educators so that they could do the most for their students. We could not have done it without you.

With your help, JMC is changing civic education. Since our project began in 2004, we have cultivated over \$160 million in investments to improve civic education—and we are just getting started. We are charging ahead to a new chapter of growth focused on the future. With your help, 2022 will be our most transformational year to date.

Thank you for standing with us.

*"I learned more about the American Founding during the three weeks of this program than I have during the rest of my educational career!"*

**— Elizabeth N., Christendom College Class of 2024**

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## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JOHN LILLARD FOR 11 YEARS OF SUPPORT AND SERVICE

To make the changes required in education, we work with bold donors who believe in the power of education and are ready to invest in the American dream for future generations.

John Lillard is the perfect example. John joined our Board of Directors in 2010, and for over a decade, has been quick to act on big changes in education by investing his time, talents, and money to improve education.

Over the years, John and his wife Paula have partnered with the Jack Miller Center to invest in education at both the university and K-12 level. At the University of Virginia, John's alma mater, his support has given solid footing to the UVA Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy and is creating a Chaired Professorship in America's Founding Principles and History. The couple also endowed a JMC partner program at Lake Forest College that offers content-based graduate courses for K-12 teachers.



John has given much of his time and talent as a member of the Jack Miller Center Board of Directors. After 11 years of dedication and service, John stepped down from the Board in November. We are profoundly grateful for his many years of leadership that helped take the Jack Miller Center from an idea to a nationally-recognized leader in civic education.

John's presence will be greatly missed in the board room. Thankfully, the Lillards remain active supporters, advocates, and dear friends of the JMC and its mission.

"PAULA AND I SUPPORT THE JMC BECAUSE WE WANT THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS TO LEARN WHAT THE FOUNDERS MADE POSSIBLE FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS."

# Ways to Give

While our mission is in support of an engaged citizenry, JMC intentionally does not solicit public funds. We are supported entirely by the generous donations of private individuals and foundations.

A contribution to the Jack Miller Center is an investment in the civic mission of education at all levels. JMC uses its academic and nonprofit expertise to be effective stewards of your investment, maximizing its impact.

Following your intent closely, your gift will support the areas of greatest need for our community of scholars in the following areas:

## **PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS**

Support Summer Institutes, curriculum and program-building workshops, teaching fellowships, content-based courses for middle and high school teachers, and more.

## **FUND FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE**

JMC's endowment will ensure the future of quality education in our nation's founding principles.

## **PROGRAMS ON CAMPUS**

Support college centers of learning, Constitution Day programs, speakers series, new course creation, and other work by our faculty partners.

## **FOUNDERS LEGACY SOCIETY**

Include JMC in your estate planning with a gift of education to future generations.

# Elevate America by the 250<sup>th</sup> Campaign

Now is the time to act and protect our American values for future generations.

July 4, 2026, is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. If our country is to survive the next 250 years, we need to recommit to the principles that have made America the beacon of freedom for the rest of the world.

That change starts with fixing our country's broken civic education. There is bipartisan agreement that we have to improve our civic knowledge for future generations and we have to act quickly.

The Jack Miller Center is ready to reground our country's education in America's founding principles and history, from kindergarten to college. Our unique educator-centered model has been proven, now it's time to achieve a national scale.

In 2021, we launched a bold five-year campaign. Our plan will expand our signature programs for professors, graduate and professional development programs for K-12 teachers, courses, events, and group activities for students, and an array of resources for educators and classrooms across the nation.

Achieving these goals requires increasing our annual budget from about \$5 million to \$15 million. We laid the groundwork for this transformational change in 2021 with a record number of new investors and a growing team of new staff.

But we're just getting started. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Jack Miller Center. Your donation, large or small, is an investment in the future of our country—for you, for your children, for your grandchildren.

Northern Trust, a leading wealth management firm, manages JMC's funds to support our efforts to reinvigorate education in America's founding principles and history. Northern Trust's expertise will help make your philanthropic goals a reality.


*To learn more about charitable gift planning through the Jack Miller Center, please call Mike Carroll at (484) 436-2067 or email at [philanthropy@gojmc.org](mailto:philanthropy@gojmc.org).*

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*"While throwing stones at the past might make students feel superior to their forefathers, allowing students to contend with their own place in American civic life makes them feel connected to the past and empowered for the future."*

Enrico Pucci, 8th Grade U.S. History Teacher  
Sarasota, Florida  
Alumnus, The American Civics and History Initiative