



JACK MILLER CENTER

For Teaching America's Founding Principles & History

A CASE FOR SUPPORT

Our Five-Year Strategic Plan
to Get Civic Education Back on Track

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

OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

Civic education is in a deep state of neglect.

In 2018, only 25 percent of students reached the “proficient” status on the National Assessment for Educational Progress exam. The World Values Survey found that less than one third of Americans born in the 1980s think democracy is vital. And two thirds of today’s college graduates can’t name the three branches of government, much less their constitutional charge.

Believe it or not, the problem of our crumbling civic foundation is one of the only areas in modern American politics with bipartisan agreement.

Yet, as a country we are doubling down on our differences and moving away from our shared values. Political polarization is reaching new heights, and American trust in institutions — from government to public schools— is at an all-time low.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Even the country’s own history and founding principles are being called into question: Is America irredeemably racist? Were we founded in 1619 or 1776? Are democracy and capitalism protecting our freedoms or enshrining systemic oppression?

We are a nation hungry for civic growth.

And yet, we are starving the very classrooms where future generations should encounter America’s core values and explore ways to fully achieve our nation’s founding ideals.

Colleges and universities are cutting American history and civics classes from their course offerings. Secondary schools are favoring vague and varying interpretations of important texts over primary sources. And civic educators lack the resources and professional development they crave to build engaging and challenging classrooms.

The Jack Miller Center is committed to, and is, reversing this trend and reinvigorating civic education, from K-12 through college.



Who are we?

The Jack Miller Center is committed to restoring and reinvigorating civic education in America’s founding principles and history. We are non-partisan and non-sectarian and we engage a broad range of scholars and donors who share our mission.

We invest in talented educators who want to bring American ideals back to American education and work to inspire their students to be informed citizens. And we are staunch defenders of free expression and intellectual diversity — because the pursuit of happiness is dependent on continuing the pursuit of truth.

Our network of educators believes that the ideas America was founded on—individual liberty, free markets, free societies, and universal, inalienable rights including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—should remain central to our nation’s civic life today and should continue to define our national character in the future.

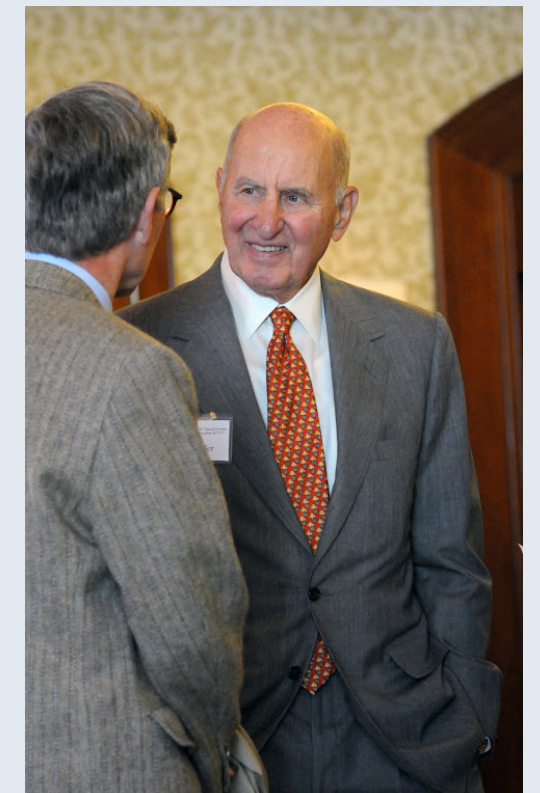
Why are you called the Jack Miller Center?

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 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.

A strong civic education starts with informed and inspired teachers. In 2004, Jack built a team to produce a series of professional development programs and resources for college educators. The demand grew rapidly, and the Jack Miller Center launched as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2007.

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



WHAT DOES THE JACK MILLER CENTER DO?

Our mission is to reinvigorate the teaching of America's founding principles and history, an education vital to our nation's future.

At the college level, JMC conducts summer institutes for young scholars, national and regional programs for professors, and sponsors events, fellowships, courses, and student activities on campuses. At the K-12 level, JMC works with its network of professors and institutions to provide content-based graduate and professional development programs for K-12 teachers.

JMC also produces an array of resources for educators at all levels to help them bring American history and founding principles back into the education of young Americans.

JMC AT A GLANCE

At the heart of our mission is getting more talented educators into the classroom and reaching more students.

- Since 2004, we've grown a national network of more than **1,000 professors on more than 300 campuses**.
- Our partners have **taught more than 1.2 million college students and over 30,000 courses** on America's founding principles and history.
- Since 2016, **more than 1,000 middle and high school educators** have taken part in our professional development and graduate programs for teachers.
- We have growing **regional and statewide K-12 civics initiatives** in Chicago, New York City, Wisconsin, Virginia, and Florida and teacher programs at universities in other areas.
- In 2020, we began a collaborative initiative with the Bill of Rights Institute and the Ashbrook Center (see page 9) **to provide professional development programs that will reach thousands of K-12 teachers**. Launched in Florida, the initiative will expand to new states over the next five years.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

We have reached an inflection point when it comes to both defining and shaping the future of education.

As Jack Miller says, we believe that "the battle for the soul of our country will be won or lost in our classrooms." While our natural rights should be inalienable and self-evident, a free society is not.

Education in America's founding principles need not be a blind allegiance to the great minds of history. Nor should it be solely focused on criticizing the shortcomings and failures in our history. Rather, it should be a balance of what we have accomplished, where we have failed, what areas are yet to be fully realized, and how we can continue to advance the American Experiment.

To keep the past as prologue requires knowledge of the past and critical thinking to move forward.

President Ronald Reagan famously said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." Preserving our American ideals requires an education about what our founding values are and why they matter.

CHANGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION



Scholars at a Jack Miller Center Summer Institute

Support a National Network of Educators

At the heart of JMC's work is its national community of professors. This growing network of more than 1,000 talented scholars of history and political science are dedicated to truth and the preservation of the American experiment. JMC identifies young scholars who share our mission and helps them advance their teaching careers and gain influence.

Reach More Students

As our professor partners progress, we help many of them build JMC partner programs on their campuses—centers of study and teaching that engage students through special events, reading groups, courses, certificates, and more.

All JMC campus partner programs value intellectual diversity, free speech, the free exchange of ideas, and above all, the importance of America's founding principles. Along with an array of events, our well-established programs offer majors, minors, student and postdoctoral fellowships, and more. As of 2021, we have helped establish such programs on 100+ campuses. To achieve national impact, we aim to establish an additional 15 per year.

A major goal is to establish a nationally-recognized flagship institute for the study of the American political tradition on a leading university campus. It will offer premier undergraduate and graduate education, K-12 teacher education programs, events for students, faculty and the public, fellowships at all levels of academia, and a place for our most esteemed partners to teach and research. Most importantly, it will serve as a model and resource for other aspiring programs around the country.

WHY NOT INVEST DIRECTLY IN THE SCHOOL OF MY CHOICE?

For donors who are committed to a particular institution or faculty member, the question can arise: Why not give directly to the university? What value does the Jack Miller Center add?

The answer is simple: JMC protects donor intent. We ensure efficient use of funds, work closely with faculty to develop engaging programming that reaches more students, and we keep the donor informed.

The landscape of higher education is changing rapidly. Departments shift and university administrations can change their priorities and politics. The Jack Miller Center monitors these changes and acts as your advocate to safeguard your investment and help you realize your goals in higher education.

IMPROVING K-12 CLASSROOMS

Premier Teacher Education

The formation of citizenship begins much earlier than college. High schools, middle schools, and even elementary schools have their unique roles to play in raising the next generation of engaged citizens.

Teaching is a notoriously demanding profession. Secondary school teachers of civics, U.S. history, and government often do not have the opportunity to closely study the subjects they are teaching. And almost all programs and courses made for teachers address instructional methods rather than course content.

Our teachers deserve better. We created the JMC Founding Civics Initiative to offer seminars and graduate-level education in America's founding principles and history, specifically designed for teachers. Our programs invite middle and high school teachers to go beyond pedagogy and explore the subjects they are passionate about teaching.

These aren't simply history and civics classes—they are developed with teachers in mind, attended solely by teachers, and have teaching materials that focus on the central works of the American political tradition.



High school and middle school teachers at a 2021 summer institute at the University of West Florida

THE AMERICAN CIVICS AND HISTORY INITIATIVE

Groundbreaking Collaboration with Like-Minded Organizations to Strengthen our National Impact at the K-12 Level

We launched our K-12 civics outreach initiative in 2016 and have spent the past five years building new programs and working with institutions in different regions to meet its unique educational and professional development needs.

We currently offer teacher education programs in six regions: Chicago, New York City, Boston, Wisconsin, Virginia, and Florida.

To expand our impact, we launched the American Civics and History Initiative (ACHI) in 2020, a collaborative project to provide programs for thousands of teachers, working state by state in partnership with the Bill of Rights Institute and the Ashbrook Center.

Introduced as a pilot project in Florida, ACHI aims to expand its reach to 6,800 teachers across the state over two years. With support solely from private individuals and organizations, ACHI has already had tremendous success reaching teachers, working with district supervisors, public organizations, and state leadership. This model is proven and we're ready to launch ACHI nationally, working state-by-state until these programs are available throughout the country.



"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 made them feel connected to the past and empowered for the future... I believe that my students ended the school year both appreciating the ideals of our great Republic, and being committed to its protection and preservation. And that's a big 'WIN' in my book!"

**Eighth Grade Teacher, Enrico Pucci
Sarasota, Florida**

Alumnus, The American History and Civics Initiative

ELEVATE AMERICA by the 250th

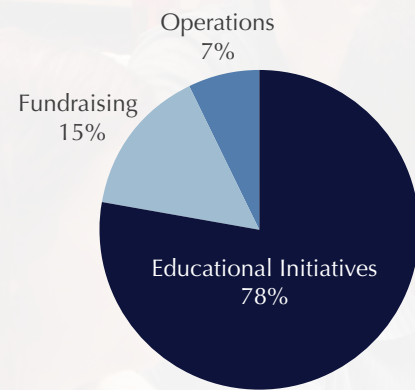
July 4, 2026 is the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. And we have big plans for nationwide impact in education at all levels. We are launching this five-year campaign to get civic education back on track, from K-12 through college. Every gift, large or small, will bring us one step closer.

Our goal is to increase our annual budget from an average of \$5 million to \$15 million so we can do much more to ensure every American student is educated in our country's founding principles and history.

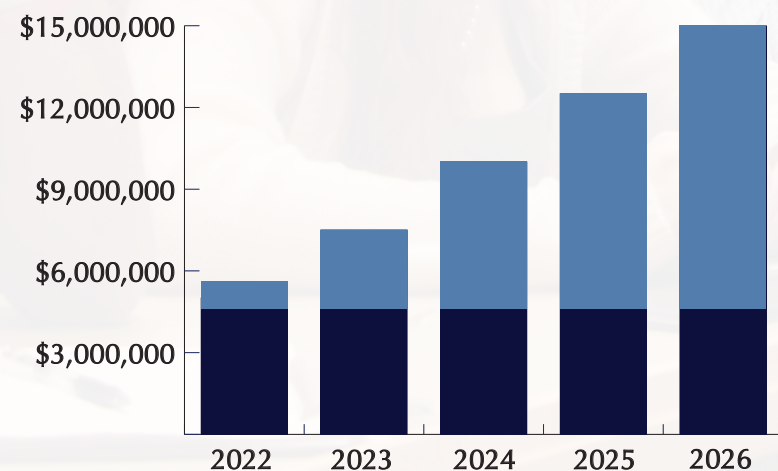
Average Distribution of Funds

Seventy-eight percent of all funds raised goes directly to educational initiatives at both the K-12 and university levels.

This includes 10% donated toward our Endowment Fund, which is devoted entirely to long-term support of educational programming in accordance with the donor's specifications.



Fundraising Goals By Year



FIVE YEAR OBJECTIVES

- Grow and foster our **national network of professors** through a robust series of summer institutes, regional seminars, course creation programs, career-development workshops, and more
- Cultivate new research and scholarship to **ensure American political thought remains a viable and dynamic field of inquiry** in higher education
- **Take our K-12 teacher education program national** to give teachers in every state access to accredited content-based professional development and graduate courses
- Introduce a state-of-the-art **American Tradition Online Library** of primary source texts for teachers, students, and the public
- Launch a **nationally-recognized flagship institute** on a top university campus that will offer premier undergraduate, graduate and K-12 teacher education along with a postdoctoral fellowship program and public engagement opportunities
- Support the growth of **JMC partner programs** for undergraduate and graduate students on a total of at least 120 campuses
- Develop a **JMC consortium masters program for K-12 teachers** to earn a graduate degree by taking JMC-sponsored courses with our partner institutions across the country
- Grow our endowment to ensure the **long-term sustainability of our signature programs** for educators at all levels, from K-12 thru college

"As an engineering student who is not well-versed in the liberal arts, the program at MIT has provided me with understandings of major historical events and the world we live in today. More importantly, it has helped me to think about the world I want to live in tomorrow."

David Hou
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

HOW CAN I HELP?

Donations for general support enable us to channel funds to programs with the greatest needs and to grow our organization. Donations may also go to specific initiatives, and even to specific institutions.

Help Educators Bring the Best Civic Education to their Students

JMC runs programs that expand our community of professors, help them in their careers, and advance the study and teaching of the American founding. From our signature Summer Institutes, to the Lincoln Symposium and Jeffersonian Seminars, to the journal *American Political Thought* and several new, ambitious projects for online teaching resources, our programs approach the crisis in civics education from many angles.

Support Programs on Campus for College Students

Campus-based programs reach today's students directly. Led by our faculty partners, these programs can offer events, courses, fellowships, student activities, and more. JMC partner programs grow interest from both students and campus administrations for demonstrating vibrant intellectual exchange and free and open inquiry—the very reason we believe so strongly in a classically liberal education model. You can support work at college campuses and universities all across the nation, or you can tell us about a specific school of your interest.

Some philanthropic partners wish to support a specific campus, or a group of colleges in a specific region. JMC helps these donors invest in education smartly by locating professors sympathetic to our mission who are doing excellent scholarly work.

Strengthen K-12 Civic Education

You can help improve K-12 civics education in a variety of ways, whether working with an individual campus of your interest or through city- and statewide efforts. JMC works with our extensive national network of professors and universities to develop accredited professional development and graduate courses solely for K-12 teachers. In addition to deep study and discussion, our content-based programs always dedicate time for developing lesson plans so that teachers can make use of them in their classrooms right away.

Invest in the Future of Civic Education

JMC's endowment, the Fund for America's Future, is a long-term option to ensure the availability of education about the American founding deep into the future. Ultimately, the endowment will be a sustaining financial resource that carries Jack Miller's vision for civic education, and his legacy as a leader in the field, far into the future.

Students of JMC Partner Program, the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri



"Since beginning as a JMC partner program in 2014, we have built a center of excellence for the study of American political thought and history. We now have 12 core faculty, 30 affiliated faculty, signature undergraduate programs including our DC Scholars, Society of Fellows, and a major in Constitutional Democracy, and support of faculty and graduate student scholarship and research. All of this was made possible by the generosity of the Kinder Foundation and our partnership with the Jack Miller Center."

Professor Justin Dyer
Director, the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy
University of Missouri



INVESTING IN AMERICA'S FUTURE



The future of civic education has reached a critical point. Every recent president, from Bush to Biden, has proposed a plan to address the concerns of an unengaged and uninformed citizenry. While those are important steps, they have yet to solve the problem.

We need grassroots efforts to meet the diverse needs of educators and students and deliver support directly to the classroom.

The Jack Miller Center is on the ground, doing this important work every day. While we are happy to work with our public sector partners, our mission is funded entirely through private support. This gives us the flexibility we need to build unique and sustainable programs — while achieving the goals of our donors.

Now is the time to act and protect our American values for future generations. Will you help support our efforts?

Gifts of all sizes to the Jack Miller Center are valued as generous investments in the future of civic education.

We are happy to answer your questions. Please give us a call or send an email and let us know your interests in strengthening civic education.

Our stewardship team can be reached at 484-436-2067 or philanthropy@gojmc.org.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation today, you can visit gojmc.org/teach or mail a check to our headquarters in Bala Cynwyd, a suburb just outside Philadelphia.

Jack Miller Center
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Thank you for your support!

"An alum once told me that the Center for American Studies is the 'hidden gem' of Columbia. I couldn't agree more. It has allowed me to study liberal arts in the truest sense—to study an eclectic array of the humanities in order to make me a better person, citizen, and intellectual. I'm forever indebted to this Center, and I personally thank you all for your support."

**Madeleine Claire Matthews
Columbia University
Center for American Studies**



WHAT CAN MY DONATION DO?

Every donation, large or small, makes a difference in the education of our young people.

A donation of \$100 could provide 50 students with a pocket-sized copy of the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence

A donation of \$500 could provide 25 K-12 teachers with reading materials for a week-long seminar to help them introduce America's founding ideas and debates to young students

A donation of \$2,500 could sponsor a promising young scholar to attend a JMC Summer Institute that introduces them to top professors in American political thought and history and supports their teaching and career development

A donation of \$5,000 could cover the cost for developing and offering a new college course in American ideas and institutions or a professional development seminar for 20 secondary-school teachers

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