



## ***James Madison Legacy Project: Summary Research Findings***

The James Madison Legacy Project (JMLP) is a three-year nationwide initiative of the Center for Civic Education targeting high-need students that expands the availability and effectiveness of middle and high school civics instruction. It provides professional development (PD) for teachers based on the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* curriculum. In the first two years of the JMLP, over 1,300 teachers received PD, benefitting approximately 50,000 students in 46 states and the District of Columbia. The JMLP is funded by a Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Georgetown University research team is studying the effectiveness of the JMLP for participating teachers and their students. The analysis to date finds that the *We the People* program works. Teachers gain civic content knowledge and improve their classroom pedagogy. Students improve their knowledge of fundamental constitutional principles. Four JMLP classes qualified for the 2017 *We the People* National Finals, having successfully competed against other teams in their states.

### **Teacher Findings**

- Teachers' civic knowledge in year one increased significantly after they completed the JMLP. JMLP Teachers scored on average 18% higher on a test of civic knowledge (approximately 7 points better on a 60-point scale) than control teachers who did not participate in the JMLP PD.
- Teachers who took part in the JMLP were more committed to the goals of educating students about core democratic principles and their civic responsibilities than control teachers.

### **Student Findings**

- Analysis of the data collected in year one finds that high school students whose teachers received *We the People* PD scored on average 41% higher on a civic knowledge test (over 5 points better on a 25-point scale) than their peers whose teachers did not receive JMLP training. The difference is statistically significant.
- Middle school students whose teachers received JMLP training in the first year scored on average 17% higher on a knowledge test (nearly 2 points better on a 20-point scale) than their peers. The difference is statistically significant.

**For further information:** <http://jmlpresearch.org/research-1/>

Contact: Dr. Diana Owen  
owend@georgetown.edu