

questions

of life, freedom
and governance



ASU The College
of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University

Office of the Dean
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University
P.O. BOX 872501
Tempe, AZ 85287-2501

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Insights

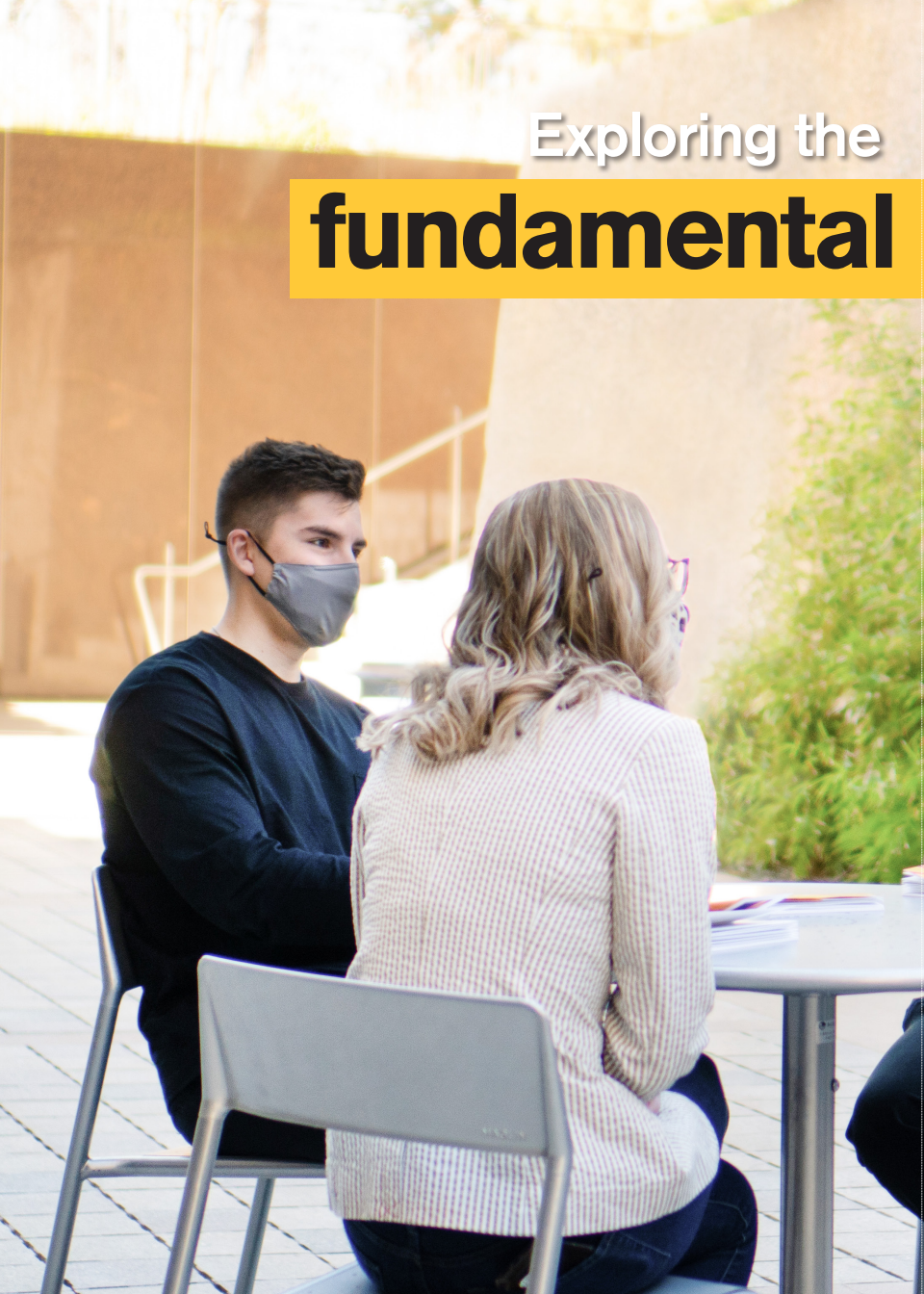
Expanding

access to civics education

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Exploring the
fundamental



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Exploring the
fundamental questions

of life, freedom
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Providing innovative civics education resources

CivEd is a collection of free digital resources from the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. This initiative empowers educators to more effectively teach civics topics while elevating civics literacy in Arizona and beyond. These resources can be accessed by anyone online and include a comprehensive curriculum guide, public lectures, podcasts, educational videos, and access to rare, historical books on civic thought and leadership.

CivEd was developed from the school and its centers' efforts to reprioritize civic learning in American education. This growing problem is evident in the minimal support for civics in schools and universities. Civics education in the U.S. is greatly underfunded, with the federal government spending

roughly five cents on civics education per student per year in our schools. The result is an inadequate understanding of our constitutional democracy and an inability for citizens to disagree in a constructive, civil way. The American framers knew that for our democratic republic to succeed, an informed citizenry must be willing to participate in self-government.

This initiative addresses this issue by making it easier for educators and learners of all ages to gain the educational tools they need to thrive as citizens and leaders in our democratic republic. CivEd also provides educators and learners access to primary-source documents such as "The Federalist Papers" and the 1912 version of the Arizona Constitution. These efforts encourage students to examine these texts and understand how they impact their lives today.

Transforming civic engagement

Free, comprehensive curriculum for educators and learners

The Civic Literacy Curriculum is a free seven-section civics curriculum guide developed by faculty and staff from the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership for educators of all levels. Each section focuses on specific subjects such as rights and responsibilities as citizens and America's colonial and revolutionary periods. These curriculum resources include dozens of offline activities, discussion prompts, study guides and more than 200 videos and flash cards — all to make teaching civics easier and more accessible for all.

Improving civics education for Arizona citizens

The Arizona Constitution Project tells the story of the 48th state through the creation of its constitution, providing the first public resource for the study of the state's founding document. The Arizona legislature tasked the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, along with the Quill Project at the University of Oxford and ARTIS International, to create this initiative allowing citizens and scholars alike to better understand Arizona's unique contribution to constitutional democracy. Through the project the school also aims to encourage citizens to understand and evaluate the political history of Arizona and America's system of constitutional federalism.

Offering access to rare, historical books

Established by the school in 2017, ASU's Civic Classic's Collection is a growing collection of more than two dozen books and manuscripts related to significant leaders, moments, ideas, debates and movements from American history. The collection is maintained by the Center for Political Thought and Leadership and ASU's Hayden Library, and covers topics ranging from the founding of America, political economy and race in America to civil rights history and activism, first peoples and great civic leaders. Items in the collection include first-editions of "The Federalist Papers" and "The Wealth of Nations," two signed, first-edition books by Martin Luther King Jr., a first-edition of Frederick Douglass' biography and a signed work by Susan B. Anthony. Several of these works are now available online through a virtual guide, where users can explore different titles through videos, text, photographs, learning activities and more.



For decades we have become comfortable with the view that U.S. history and civics education is a second-tier priority. It is vital for us to re-emphasize civics in American schools and universities so that we can begin to repair the civic disintegration seen in recent years.

— Paul Carrese,
Founding Director, School of
Civic and Economic Thought
and Leadership

How you can engage with our CivEd efforts

As the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership builds upon these efforts and continues to expand access to civics education, your participation and support can help us increase our impact. Whether you're interested in donating to support the school's mission to engage students in civic life, or if you're looking to access CivEd resources, you can learn more about the school's work by visiting scetl.asu.edu/CivEd. Learn about events hosted by the school that you can attend by following the school on Facebook or Twitter [@ASU_SCETL](https://twitter.com/ASU_SCETL) or by visiting scetl.asu.edu/events.



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