

#### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello Friends,

We are delighted to update you on another transformative year for us here at the Jefferson Center. We've strengthened our existing partnerships and forged new relationships both in the United States and globally. We're expanding our reach, deepening our impact in all our program areas, and advancing citizens and citizen power as the foundation of our democracy.

In a year that has seen confidence in democratic institutions fray domestically and abroad, our work highlights the awesome potential of individuals and communities working together to develop creative solutions to today's most complex challenges.

In 2017, we will continue our work on local government reform, media engagement and innovation, and community-based action on climate change. We're proud of the gains we've made together in recent years and can't thank you enough for your ongoing support and generosity. We will build on this foundation as we work to strengthen democracy by tapping into the wisdom and ingenuity of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Kyle Bozentko Executive Director



# **PROGRAM PROGRESS IN 2016**

In 2016, we focused on our program partnerships, expanded our impact, and deepened the Jefferson Center's role in designing the future of democracy.

### **CLIMATE & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

As a result of the Rural Climate Dialogues, rural residents across the state are taking steps to enhance community resilience and are giving voice to rural communities often left out of state-level policy development.

### WINONA COUNTY CLIMATE DIALOGUE

With the **Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**, we held the third Rural Climate Dialogue in Southeastern Minnesota's Winona County. Eighteen county residents gathered for three days to study and discuss extreme weather



and the changing climate and recommend ways to strengthen their community's resilience in the face of change.

Thanks to support from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, local organizations and individuals are implementing pilot projects designed by the Citizens Jury aimed at increasing resilience. These pilot projects will also serve as models for other communities around Minnesota.

See more at jefferson-center.org/winona

## **RURAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES STATE CONVENING**

The capstone of the first round of Rural Climate Dialogues brought together participants and community leaders from Stevens County, Itasca County, and Winona County, along with staff from Minnesota state agencies and nonprofits, to better understand the challenges and opportunities for rural communities in addressing the impacts of climate change. The two-day deliberative session revealed statewide policy priorities to address climate change, identified gaps in state programs and policies and solutions to better serve rural communities, and connected rural residents as a way to engender better coordination for future community resilience work.

See more at jefferson-center.org/rcd-state-convening

"Many would likely wager that a climate discussion would paralyze rural residents, divide them, and lead to more finger pointing than hand holding. But not here." - Anna Claussen, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

## **ELECTIONS, GOVERNANCE & MEDIA**

Our work is changing how local media and government connect to the communities they serve and reimagines partnerships between once-competing organizations in order to build healthier media ecosystems and a stronger democracy.

#### **INFORMED CITIZEN AKRON & YOUR VOTE OHIO**

As residents of a perennial battleground state, Ohioans are inundated with political advertisements and soundbitedriven political coverage each election cycle. In an effort to help Ohioans have deeper, more meaningful conversations about politics, we joined with the Akron Beacon Journal to explore opportunities for local news media to engage their audiences about the issues and coverage that matter most. Through Citizens Juries, statewide polling, and community engagement events, Ohioans created recommendations focused on shifting the role of news and journalism in their



focused on shifting the role of news and journalism in their communities.

A coalition of participating news media organizations across the state took these recommendations to heart and began experimenting with different political coverage and new audience engagement strategies. To build on the experimentation of Informed Citizen Akron, we are supporting Ohio news outlets through the Your Voice Ohio collaborative into 2017 and beyond. Through this effort, we'll work to reinvigorate sustainable local journalism by leveraging local news to empower an active, engaged, and informed citizenry.

See more at jefferson-center.org/ic-akron

#### **TWIN CITIES ELECTION FORUM**

Amid a contentious election season, we joined with the **University of Minnesota** to engage 50 Twin Cities metro residents to craft, across party lines, the top reasons someone might support



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Driven to Discover<sup>554</sup>

each major party presidential candidate. In support of University of Minnesota project lead **Dr. C. Daniel Myers**, we assisted in the project design, participant recruitment, and facilitation instruction for Dr. Myers' students. Led by the trained student facilitators, the Twin Cities Election Forum uncovered the values and priorities underpinning the electoral decisions citizens made and demonstrated the value of deliberation in increasing mutual understanding between supporters of each candidate.

See more at jefferson-center.org/twin-cities-election-forum

"If journalists are to reconnect with citizens, we need to listen to them negotiate tough issues. The Jefferson Center's Citizens Jury model does that." - Doug Oplinger, Akron Beacon Journal

#### **CLEVELAND CITY COUNCIL**

As a part of a multi-year Operations and Sustainability Initiative, Cleveland City Council (Ohio) leadership recognized a need to deploy a more proactive research and policy making approach to address constituents' concerns and promote shared problem solving throughout the City. We partnered with the Cobalt Group to conduct interviews of City Council leadership to identify shared challenges, opportunities, and possibilities for collaboration and innovation across committees. To that end, we continue working with committee chairs and research/policy staff in the Clerk of Council's Office to establish a metrics-based system for implementing collaborative, citizen-

#### **YOUR SAY NUCLEAR**

In an effort to inform and engage citizens in advance of a decision to expand nuclear waste disposal in South Australia, the newDemocracy Foundation hosted two

focused policymaking on behalf of their constituents.

Citizens Juries to determine if, and under what circumstances, the South Australian public might support nuclear waste disposal in the state. We supported this effort by developing materials for participants and assisting in process design conversations. The South Australian Department of Premier and Cabinet is incorporating results from the Citizens Juries as the foundation for a broader engagement process to inform its decision on the nuclear waste question.

#### **USING DELIBERATION TO GUIDE COLLABORATION**

Through research conducted in partnership with the Kettering Foundation, the Jefferson Center investigated the role of public deliberation in improving collaboration among organizations with different missions but shared goals. Drawing from the experience of our collaboration in Informed Citizen Akron and Your Vote Ohio, the report highlighted the value of deliberation in defining shared goals, clarifying roles around those goals, and building greater buy-in among participating organizations.



**KETTERING** 







## PATIENT ENGAGEMENT & PATIENT POLICY

Our patient engagement work has been met by wider institutional support for inclusion in policy development in addition to the recognition we have received for the unique value public participation, and Citizens Juries in particular, offer the healthcare field.

#### **CLEARING THE ERROR**

Recognized by IAP2 USA and IAP2 International as 'Research Project of the Year,' Clearing the Error connected us with researchers at Syracuse University and the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine to assess the value of deliberation in reducing errors made during the diagnostic process. We convened citizens in six days of deliberation to develop patient-focused recommendations for reducing diagnostic error. These recommendations were subsequently assessed for feasibility and likelihood of impact by healthcare consumers and physicians.

The Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine is working now to implement the top recommendations in health systems across the country, including through training for clinicians and patient advocates, implementing and evaluating recommendations through controlled experiments in clinical settings, and initiating policy reform in regional healthcare systems to strengthen patient participation in the diagnostic process.

See more at jefferson-center.org/patient-dx

## SOCIETY to IMPROVE DIAGNOSIS



## **HEALTH DATA ON TRIAL**

We partnered with University of Manchester's Health e-Research Centre and Citizens' Juries c.i.c. to design and facilitate a series of Citizens Juries on the topic of health data usage and data privacy. Participants discussed the use of NHS data for research and commercial purposes, and the results from their deliberations were utilized by the National Health Service's Information Commissioner and the National Data Guardian to act as guidelines for future medical data sharing practices in the United Kingdom.

Connected Health Cities, an effort aimed at using data to improve health and spur economic investment in Northern England, also commissioned two Juries to guide their data sharing and usage policies for a series of planned and

potential uses of health data throughout the multi-year initiative.



See more at jefferson-center.org/health-record-privacy-in-the-uk

"Working with the Jefferson Center reaffirmed the value of informed patient perspectives and provided a versatile model for engaging patients and healthcare consumers." - Malcolm Oswald, The University of Manchester

## REVENUE GROWTH, 2012-2016

