

CONNECTIONS

VOLUME XV

ISSUE 1

August 2004

- Exploring the Public-Academy Relationshippage 2
- The Civic Mission of Higher Educationpage 7
- Revitalizing the University of Minnesota's Civic Missionpage 8
- The Role of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Building Civic Responsibilitypage 11
- The New Engagement: From Community Relations to Community Partnershipspage 13
- The Public Practice of Scholarship and the Production of Knowledgepage 17
- Apple IPM in Massachusetts: Public Scholarship in Actionpage 18
- College Students as Citizenspage 22
- Fraternal Futures: Empowering Students to Shape the Future of Greek Organizations.page 23
- Increasing Student Civic Engagement through Balanced Democratic Dialogue.page 25
- June Board Summarypage 28
- An Update on Public Journalismpage 29
- The Footbridge Forumpage 31
- New Stories for Television: Promoting Public Judgment in Colombia.page 32
- Books Worth Readingpage 34



June Board Summary

The Kettering Foundation's board meeting this past June focused on the relationship between the public and the academy, discussing avenues for new research. A number of promising approaches were outlined. Studies from multiple perspectives are possible: not just students and faculty members, but also college administrators, including university presidents and board members. Each offers its own unique advantages.

The link between civic engagement and students, for example, is perhaps far more complex than commonly suggested. While student voting rates are dismal, today's college students are actively involved in a wide range of volunteer activities both on campus and in their communities. Why, then, do they seem so disengaged from the political process? Other dimensions of their public lives are also troubling. Alcohol abuse, for example, takes the lives of too many students on college campuses. For other students, safety and violent crime are a top worry. Where and how might students learn the skills and habits of self-rule that will better enable them to meet the challenges facing their campuses and the nation? One of the articles in this month's *Connections*, for example, explores the civic engagement of fraternities and sororities at Ohio's Miami University. More studies like these with a broader focus might prove invaluable.

When it comes to understanding the connection between higher education and the public, the work of the faculty, their practices and attitudes, is also important. One promising possibility is public scholarship — work and research that engages the public in the coproduction of new knowledge. While this kind of engagement with the public can give faculty members new insights and a new approach to their work, does it actually help build civic capacity on campus and in the surrounding community?

Another possible focus is the culture of professionalism. With its emphasis on expertise and specialized knowledge and detachment, how does the concept of professionalism affect the ability of faculty members to engage their communities — both in their research and in their daily lives? Perhaps describing the struggles of scholars and faculty members who are making public work part of their professional lives might open a door to new opportunities for learning.

Just as individual faculty members seem drawn to this kind of public work, so too are college and university administrators. Civic engagement efforts and service-learning projects are spreading across campuses nationwide as deans and college officials look for ways to reshape and revitalize their institutions. If the foundation could better understand what is prompting those movements, we could gain some valuable insights into the links between higher education and democratic life. As public funding for public universities shrinks, an increasing number of college presidents and board members are interested in finding ways to reconnect with the public. Perhaps this increasing financial pressure might focus new attention on the possibilities of civic engagement, civic education, and public scholarship.

Finally, outreach programs present a potentially important research opportunity of their own. Because this work connects members of the university community with the larger public community around them, they might provide a fruitful avenue for further research in the link between the public and the academy. The extracurricular, in short, can provide insight into the curricular, at all levels of college life — not just for students, but also for faculty members, staff, and administrators.

The Kettering Foundation, chartered in 1927, is an operating foundation — not a grant-giving foundation — rooted in the American tradition of inventive research. Its founder, Charles F. Kettering, holder of more than 200 patents, is best known for his invention of the automobile self-starter. He was interested, above all, in seeking practical answers to “the problems behind the problems.” The foundation today continues in that tradition. The objective of the research now — the study of what helps democracy work as it should. Six major Kettering programs are designed to shed light on what is required for strengthening public life. Kettering is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) research corporation supported by a \$250 million endowment.

How to Order Kettering Foundation Publications

To request a *KF Publications Catalog*, call 1-800-600-4060, send a FAX to 1-937-435-7367, or write:

Kettering Foundation
 Order Department
 P. O. Box 41626
 Dayton, OH 45441

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

For more information about KF research and publications, see the Kettering Foundation’s Web site at www.kettering.org.

Connections is published by the Kettering Foundation, 200 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459-2799.

Unless expressly stated to the contrary, the articles in Connections reflect the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the foundation, its trustees, or officers.

Those who contributed to producing this issue include:

Editor...

Ilse Tebbetts

Program staff...

Maxine Thomas

John Dedrick

Deborah Witte

Graphic Design

& Desktop Publishing...

Long’s Graphic Design, Inc.

Copy Editor...

Betty Frecker

Assistant to the Publisher...

Valerie Breidenbach

Publisher...

Kenneth A. Brown

LGD-0881-KF-15500-MP-07-04

*Kettering
 Foundation*

© Copyright 2004 by the Kettering Foundation

200 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459-2799 (937) 434-7300

444 North Capitol Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 393-4478

6 East 39th Street, New York, New York 10016 (212) 686-7016

Kettering Foundation
 200 Commons Road
 Dayton, OH 45459-2799

Nonprofit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Dayton, OH
 Permit No. 638