



FROM THE DESK OF GABE CONGER

BY THE NUMBERS

MILWAUKEE PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (MPCP)

28,000 students
133 private schools

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MPS)

75,000 students
156 traditional schools

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Enrolling in a private high school through MPCP increases the likelihood of a student graduating from high school, enrolling in a four-year college, and persisting in college by 4–7%.

Among 25–28 year-old adults, former MPCP students committed 53% fewer drug crimes and 86% fewer property crimes than their public school peers.

Sources:

Wolf, Patrick, The Comprehensive Longitudinal Evaluation of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program: Summary of Final Reports, SCDP Milwaukee Evaluation, Report #36

DeAngelis, Corey and Wolf, Patrick, Private School Choice and Character: More Evidence from Milwaukee (February 26, 2019)

Dear Friend,

More Milwaukee students than ever are getting ready for classes this fall at high-performing schools as we approach the 30th anniversary of school choice. These are engaged students, as evidenced by the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program's (MPCP) strong track record for shaping students into informed citizens committed to their communities and their country. However, despite data which demonstrates the long-term success of school choice, we are at a crossroads in the education reform movement.

Fortunately, K–12 education reform has been a consistent focus of The Bradley Foundation for three decades, and is a passion for many in the Bradley Impact Fund donor community too. We're working in cooperation to address four critical school choice challenges:

- Attract and retain strong teachers and school leaders,
- Make suitable facilities available for top-performing schools' expansion,
- Support concentrated efforts to engage parents with the education options available for their children, and
- Formulate and promote policy ideas and institutions to advance parental choice in education.

The K–12 landscape in Milwaukee and across the nation is our focus for this *Impact Brief*. You'll meet Kevin Festerling and Shawn Sprewer, dynamic leaders of Milwaukee's nascent Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School, in *The Future is Now*. Program Officer Jason Crye shares The Bradley Foundation's perspective on the value of a ground-up approach to K–12 education in *On Point*. Learn about the Center for Urban Teaching (CFUT), a grant recipient committed to solving urban teacher shortages by recruiting and preparing high-quality teachers through innovative programming. I hope these stories will engage you and expand your knowledge of education as the underpinning for an informed American citizenry.

As we approach fall, it's also time to reserve your place at the 2019 Bradley Impact Conference, October 10–11 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Get to know others in the Bradley Impact Fund donor community as we hear from inspiring keynote speakers and some of our country's foremost thought leaders. (See page 7 for our exciting keynote line-up.) I hope you'll make plans to join us!

Sincerely,



Gabe Conger

President, The Bradley Impact Fund



INSPIRING LOVE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

in the Hearts and Minds of Citizens



In her 2019 Bradley Prizes acceptance speech, the Honorable Janice Rogers Brown reminds us of the importance of instilling the value of American exceptionalism in our youngest citizens, and the essential role of education in this pursuit. The following excerpt is used with her permission.

The Framers of the Constitution were, in Calvin Coolidge’s words, people influenced by “a great spiritual development” who acquired “great moral power.” They were not oblivious to the perils of the kind of regime they sought to establish and they knew liberty would require citizens to be restrained enough to control their passion out of respect for the rights of others—with a knowledge of history and a firm grasp of language—a special lexicon—to guard themselves against tyranny. The Framers, then, understood that only a virtuous polity, capable of articulating its claim to liberty, would be capable of making self-governance work.

Still the Framers could not have anticipated this “generation of snowflakes” that William Voegeli describes as the “first revolutionaries to mount the barricades in the name of their own emotional fragility.” Thus, for millennials and even younger generations we have not yet labeled, the very idea of a “rule of law” has been reduced to a nonsensical meme. Quick to proclaim they know their rights, they are often more conversant with the comings and goings of pop culture divas or more concerned about the newest technology ecosystems than the correct construction of the privileges and immunities clause.

For the Constitution to endure, citizens must possess discipline and toughness. After all, the Constitution’s teachings are tough: the document imposes limitations on liberty. In theory, each individual’s freedom becomes bounded by restraint—the restraint imposed by the liberties equally guaranteed to others.

Today’s domestic terrorists have no need to operate in the shadows. These modern mandarins, who have mastered intimidation and bullying and weaponized shame, are more likely to be featured on the cover of *Time* magazine than to face condemnation. They wrap themselves in the mantle of civil rights though there

is nothing civil about their actions or their intentions. No one can question their bona fides because those who claim victimhood must be obeyed; those who take offense must be appeased; and rational argument has been transformed into a hate crime.

America was founded as a natural rights regime—meaning axioms derived from nature—from natural rights—provided the guiding principles that helped shape the founders’ policies. For that generation, liberty and equality were virtual synonyms. The doctrine of equality expressed the view that no man was fit to be a natural master; no man destined to be a natural slave. Thus, the best way to ensure the protection of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness was to limit the design and end of government. A free creature capable of moral judgment ought not to be coerced.

The Civil Rights Movement was instigated by people seeking fully to join that polity. The equality America promised was the right not to be ruled except by consent. Proponents of civil rights characterized their actions as “cashing a promissory note” to fulfill the founding promises of the regime. They opposed invidious discrimination but accepted that the stresses and strains of our differences, like the engineering of a gothic cathedral, opened sacred spaces that made the nation’s architecture beautiful. They accepted without question the demands of the good.

The new rights claimants beg to differ. Instead, they insist equality requires the satisfaction of all desires—no matter how destructive—and they deny there is any such thing as the good. This is less a plea for civil liberties; more like a declaration of war. There can be no claim for a civil right that is only fulfilled by destroying the philosophical framework from which the right is purportedly derived. These self-appointed social justice warriors are not requesting admission; they are demanding submission.

Midway through the Lenten season, Yale Law School proudly announced its decision to begin discriminating against religious students by denying them aid, and barring their participation in the school's loan assistance program. What was the sin that caused these students to be deemed pariahs? Yale's Federalist Society Chapter invited Kristen Waggoner, an attorney employed by the Alliance Defending Freedom, to speak on campus. LGBT protesters objected to Waggoner's orthodox Christian beliefs and claimed she worked for a "homophobic, transphobic hate group" even though the ADF has won nine Supreme Court cases in the last seven years. The administration responded to the protesters' list of demands with the nuclear option—a veritable jihad against religious groups and students. Later the same month, at the beginning of the holiest week of the Christian calendar, Paris' Notre Dame—a storied edifice whose history reaches back to the 12th Century—was ravaged by fire. But, out of that beauty, ruined, that sanctity, spoiled, something survived. Beyond the debris and destruction, above the rubble of 900-year-old timbers, a remnant remained. A couple of days after the fire, photos appeared on the internet. There, as if the gloom revealed it; in the midst of utter devastation, hung a gold cross, glowing as if lit from within. Suspended above an altar apparently untouched by the fire, undimmed by the soot and smoke of the conflagration, it defied the darkness. In every photograph, from every angle, it radiated light. Like a signal fire; like a beacon.

The persistence of that inexpressible light forbids us to accept the abolition of man and the destruction of the

civilization that generations of men and women have built out of the toil and agony of these past 2,000 years. I believe that man, as Faulkner wrote, must not merely endure: he must prevail. At the base of our constitutional order is a profound insight into the nature and end of the human person. We may leave to the evolutionists to guess where we came from and to the futurists to prophesy where we are going.

What matters is how willing we are to defend the principles of liberty which are our rich inheritance. What America has tried to teach the world about the nature of human flourishing is fundamental. Truth and freedom live or die together. These ideals deserve not derision but allegiance and devotion. All our insights about human rights derive from, and were shaped by, the Christian revolution. The distinctive attributes our founding documents attribute to human beings—reason, free will, and moral choice—would be inconceivable in the absence of a Judeo-Christian worldview.

It takes a national commitment to "defend" a constitution. That is why the illumination and encouragement of organizations like the Bradley Foundation are so critically important. I am honored to receive this award. But in accepting your kind recognition, allow me to impose upon your generosity once more: let us join together in common defense of our Constitution. Let us work, each one of us, on building up a fortress of virtue, on speaking with clarity to the principles that ensure our liberty.



From left: 2019 Bradley Prizes recipients Roger Kimball, Editor and Publisher, *The New Criterion*, President and Publisher, *Encounter Books*; The Honorable Janice Rogers Brown, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (retired); James Grant, Financial Journalist and Historian, Founder and editor of Grant's *Interest Rate Observer*.

2019 Bradley Prizes Recipients Honored

Hundreds of friends of The Bradley Foundation celebrated the 2019 Bradley Prize recipients in Washington, D.C., on May 7. "The Bradley Foundation is proud to honor distinguished individuals whose extraordinary talents have shaped public debate about what our nation is today, and what it will become," said Richard Graber, President and CEO of The Bradley Foundation. "Their work supports awareness of and respect for the principles of American exceptionalism."

ON POINT WITH JASON CRYE

PROGRAM OFFICER, THE BRADLEY FOUNDATION



Jason is involved in the Foundation's support of K-12 education. With his prior experience as Executive Director of Hispanics for School Choice, and as a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, an education policy think tank, he brings extensive expertise to his role.

Why is a bottom-up model for K-12 education the most effective?

So much about education today is focused on immediate metrics like test scores, but when we look at the broader longitudinal data, K-12 education that provides multiple school options while putting families at the center of educational decision-making and encouraging schools to be pillars of strong communities has the most meaningful impact. Multiple studies done over the years continue to show that college attendance, high school graduation, and civic

engagement are higher for students in Wisconsin's parental choice programs than students in public schools. These long-term results inform The Bradley Foundation's ongoing 30+ year commitment—joined by the Bradley Impact Fund donor community—to investing in student- and parent-first K-12 education.

There are thousands of kids in Milwaukee and Wisconsin ready to take control of their lives, and families ready to be partners with their teachers and school leaders. That energy and ownership is stifled by top-heavy bureaucracies, not just in schools but whenever government oversteps into citizens' lives. To improve the education opportunities for students and encourage their formation as informed citizens, we support schools with clear values and focused missions that seek to build their communities around students and families. The strong relationships between teachers, students, and parents that develop in an organic model are a vital influence in quality education that prepares students to successfully pursue their dreams and be active participants in American society.

ENCOUNTER BOOKS PUBLISHES NEW AMERICAN HISTORY TEXTBOOK

Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story by Wilfred McClay is the kind of textbook that engages learners of all ages. *Land of Hope* provides a counterpoint to Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* with a balanced, inspiring narrative of the history of America. McClay, who is the G.T. and Libby Blankenship Chair in the History of Liberty at the University of Oklahoma, threads themes of individual liberty, self-reliance, and persistent optimism throughout the text as he helps students advance on their journey to becoming informed citizens. *Land of Hope* is available at encounterbooks.com. If you are interested in supporting efforts to ensure this book is distributed far and wide in America's public school systems, please contact us. Meet Wilfred McClay and hear him discuss the importance of breaking the Left's stranglehold on American history at this year's Bradley Impact Conference, October 10-11, 2019.

Encounter
BOOKS





Shawn Sprewer providing instruction to students.



Kevin Festerling teaching a full classroom.

THE FUTURE IS NOW: *Kevin Festerling & Shawn Sprewer*

Growth in K-8 schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) has created a shortage of seats in choice high schools. Kevin Festerling envisioned a solution in Milwaukee, which is one of the toughest places for young urban students to come of age. MPCP gave Kevin and his team opportunity to try an innovative approach. After years of experience in leadership positions at St. Marcus Lutheran School, Hmong American Peace Academy, and the Center for Urban Teaching, Kevin opened the doors of Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School in 2018 to its first class of 60 freshman boys. With support from The Bradley Foundation and the Bradley Impact Fund donor community, Kingdom Prep will add another class this August, and two over the next two years to reach total enrollment of approximately 240 students.

As founder and principal, Kevin’s vision for Kingdom Prep is ***a place where young men develop their God-given gifts to lead in the home, serve in the Church, engage in meaningful work, and transform the community.*** And he’s called on Shawn Sprewer, a man he’s known for years, to bring the vision into reality. Kevin and Shawn both graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran High School. They went in separate directions for college in the late 1990s, but met again at St. Marcus in the mid 2000s. Kevin taught and became Director of St. Marcus Middle School, and Shawn served as Director of St. Marcus College Prep Center before taking over as Dean of Students for St.

Marcus Middle School. Shawn, who is Kingdom Prep’s assistant principal, gained critical business experience in roles as a financial analyst at Harley-Davidson and later, Rockwell Automation, before committing his life to K-12 urban education.

Together they’re filling a demand for a much needed, innovative high school able to prepare young men for twenty-first century leadership based on the principles of faith, service, experience, and excellence. They’ve built a diverse staff of teachers who are passionate about shaping their students into leaders in their personal lives and their community. Under their leadership, Kingdom Prep is an innovative, dynamic addition to the ecosystem of choice schools serving Milwaukee students and their families.

“ Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School has created a niche mission and vision, specialized for young men who are called to boldly commit to brotherhood in Christ for lives of purpose. The societal impact of a Kingdom-first brotherhood will manifest deep, lasting changes in our community, as our 'boys becoming men' step up as loyal husband to wife, strong father to children, and courageous servant to Christ and Church. ”

— Kevin Festerling
Founder, Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School

GRANT RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

Center for Urban Teaching

The Center for Urban Teaching (CfUT) recognizes that teacher quality is key to student achievement. This independent, Christian non-profit Milwaukee organization recruits, prepares, and supports high-performing urban teachers and leaders for choice, charter, and public schools. CfUT is an essential member of the school choice ecosystem in Milwaukee and a grant recipient of The Bradley Foundation.

88% of CfUT alumni continue to serve in urban schools for four or more years, whereas 50% of all teachers leave the profession within five years.

Source: CfUT



— CENTER FOR —
URBAN TEACHING

The idea for CfUT's talent pipeline grew out of a need to solve teacher shortages in the community. CfUT gives aspiring teachers and leaders exposure to schools across the country, as well as practical training and mentoring in a hands-on summer experience. It attracts participants representing 50 universities. CfUT also connects graduates to open positions and provides individualized coaching to new teachers and leaders to boost retention.

CfUT is on pace to have 500 alumni actively teaching and leading in schools by 2020. The organization earns high marks for alumni placement and retention, and 100% of partner schools report satisfaction with CfUT graduates' performance and character. With support from The Bradley Foundation and the Bradley Impact Fund donor community, CfUT's ground-up model is effectively developing quality teachers and leaders capable of shaping individual students as well as entire schools.

“ The need for quality teachers and leaders is real. The need is great. The need is now. The future of our children, community, and country depend on our combined efforts to fulfill this need. We know what works and as a result CfUT alumni are making a difference in urban classrooms. ”

— Krysta DeBoer, M.S.
Executive Director
The Center for Urban Teaching

Donor Story

TIM REILAND & LIZ ORELLA

Bradley Impact Fund Members since 2018

In 2018, Tim Reiland and his wife, Liz Orella, were looking for a donor-advised fund to simplify their current giving and help them plan their future philanthropic legacy. Through a mix of network connections and due diligence, they identified the Bradley Impact Fund as their philanthropic vehicle of choice. A shared commitment to K-12 education and traditional American values, coupled with the Impact Fund's ability to accept non-traditional assets, including privately held stock, made joining the Fund a natural fit.

Tim is Executive Chairman of Musicnotes. In 1998 he invested in the Madison-area technology start up, and it is now the leading digital sheet music retailer with over 50% of the market worldwide. Prior to moving back to the Madison area, Tim (a proud UW Badger alum) was a successful Milwaukee investment executive first at Baird, and then as a co-founder of Cleary Gull Reiland & McDevitt in 1987. Tim was also the board president of Milwaukee's First Stage Children's Theater from 2000 through 2002, where two of his sons performed.

Tim's passion for investing in the future of Milwaukee's children fueled his philanthropic support for the emerging school choice movement. For more than twenty years, Tim and Liz have been committed supporters of high-performing voucher schools like St. Marcus Lutheran School, in Milwaukee's Harambee neighborhood.

In addition, Tim and Liz sponsor students in Africa (Tanzania) with a focus on young girls through the Scottsdale Bible Church, and other organizations in the Phoenix area where Tim and Liz now reside with their two Siberian cats Obi and Ellie. Tim and Liz are also proud, long-time sponsors of Young America's Foundation (YAF), which their friend Scott Walker will be leading in 2021.

“ I'm very concerned about the education of our youth in this era of political correctness. We live in the greatest country in the world and should stand up for it despite its flaws. We are thrilled to team up with the Bradley Impact Fund to support causes Liz and I truly believe in. ”

— Tim Reiland
Bradley Impact Fund member

DON'T MISS THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT

*The 2019 Bradley
Impact Conference*

This inspiring, cornerstone event is your opportunity to meet and learn from local and national conservative thought leaders and connect with other members of the Bradley Impact Fund's growing community of influential, like-minded philanthropists.

Our 2019 theme is *Disruptors: Principles in Action*. We're pleased many prominent leaders will join us as keynote speakers, including **Richard Cheney**, 46th Vice President of the United States of America; **Candace Owens**, Host, The Candace Owens Show, Prager University; **Mollie Hemingway**, Senior Editor, The Federalist, and contributor for Fox News; and **Robert L. Woodson, Sr.**, Founder and President, The Woodson Center.

Your formal invitation will arrive soon. Come engage with Bradley Impact Fund friends and expand your knowledge of informed charitable giving.

Please join us for the 9th Annual

Bradley Impact Conference

— Disruptors. —

Principles in Action

Thursday, October 10
& Friday October 11, 2019

Grand Geneva Resort | Lake Geneva, WI



RSVP to Terry Famer:
events@bradleyimpactfund.org
(414) 291-2500

INSIGHTS FROM THE IMPACT FUND

Donor Privacy is More Important Now Than Ever

In these highly polarized times, it's more challenging for donors to support—and celebrate—the values they care about while remaining private with their giving. For some insights, we spoke with Tom McCabe, Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom Foundation, a grant recipient of both The Bradley Foundation and Bradley Impact Fund donor community. As the leader of a conservative nonprofit operating in three liberal West Coast states, Tom has seen firsthand the abuses of freedom that make donor privacy fundamental.

► **Q: What is the Freedom Foundation's mission?**

Tom: We help workers leave their unions if they wish. We use outreach to tell workers they have this opportunity through social media, email, phone calls, direct mail, and canvassing. The Freedom Foundation also protects workers who do leave who are harassed or abused by union officials.

► **Q: How has privacy become an issue for your organization and you personally?**

Tom: Unions are furious with us because when their members leave, they lose revenue. Since the Janus decision we've helped 50,000 workers opt out, which has cost the union at least \$40 million per year. We keep our donors' identities private but we must report our Board of Directors to the IRS. Board members and I have been attacked at our businesses and homes by unions, including protests in front of our homes and offices, and mailers sent to our neighbors and constituents.

► **Q: Are donors concerned about the issue of privacy in giving?**

Tom: They're very concerned, especially in California where there are government efforts underway to require disclosure of donors' names.

► **Q: How do you approach this conversation with donors?**

Tom: For donors who are concerned or request extra anonymity, we recommend supporting the Freedom Foundation through a personal giving account with the Bradley Impact Fund. You understand our donors' needs, and we know and trust they will be treated well by you.



We thank Tom McCabe and the Freedom Foundation for their commitment to this important and difficult work. To learn more about keeping your giving anonymous with the Bradley Impact Fund, let's start a conversation today.

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