Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to chair a board of talented individuals who are committed to the growth of Ashbrook. And it is my pleasure to know and watch the Ashbrook team as they work toward their mission. Year after year I continue to see the progress made to transform the teaching of history and civics across our nation, and this past year we experienced record numbers.

The Founders sought to secure our nation’s capacity for constitutional self-government. At Ashbrook, our student and teacher focused educational programs and services are fueled by this same desire, on a national scale. Because of your generous support over the years, we have had the privilege of reaching more than 12,000 teachers and 1.5 million students across the country. Our impact continues to grow as we expand our programs into more areas, bring in students from additional states, and increase our national profile.

I encourage you to read our 2015-2016 Annual Report and learn more about our successful efforts to develop principled leaders, engage students, and inspire teachers.

Thanks to you, Ashbrook is making a difference. The stories and gratitude expressed by each teacher and student are heartfelt and enduring. That gratitude is extended to our staff, faculty, and our Ashbrook Board, but more importantly it belongs to the individuals, foundations, and organizations whose generous support and participation directly contributes to our success. Thank you for supporting this impactful work.

Looking forward, I have no doubt that Ashbrook will continue its momentum toward the important work of transforming the teaching of American history and civics, while remaining true to its founding spirit, and attracting exceptional students and faculty from across the country. Thank you for your support of this remarkable organization.

Sincerely,

Marvin J. Krinsky
Chairman of the Board

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The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions

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Former Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives

Roger L. Beckett
Executive Director
Ashbrook Center

James Buchwald
Founder
Ariel Corporation

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President
Compass Point Advisors

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Bellville, Ohio

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(1983 to 1988)

William A. Rusher
Chairman Emeritus
(1988 to 1997)

Charles Parton
Chairman Emeritus
(1997)

David L. Carto
Emeritus Member
(2000-2014)

Bill Harris
Emeritus Member
(1997-2015)

Jean Ashbrook Cromer
Honorary Member
Newark, Ohio
Dear Friends,

I am excited to share with you the results of Ashbrook’s last 18 months, a time in which the Ashbrook Center experienced great success and growth in our student, teacher, and citizen programs. I wish to thank our supporters for enabling the critical work we do to strengthen constitutional self-government. Included in this report is an update on the recent and notable accomplishments of the Ashbrook Center as well as our 2015-16 fiscal year organizational budget.

The most notable highlight of the past year came in the area of our teacher programs. Through our Rediscovering America initiative, Ashbrook worked with over 6,000 teachers in the last 18 months! We are continuing to expand the number of programs and resources we offer to teachers nationwide, including the expansion of our online and on-campus Master of Arts in American History and Government (MAHG) degree program, offering one-day professional development programs and weekend colloquia at historic sites, a series of popular video-conference webinars, as well as expanding our online document library and exhibits on TeachingAmericanHistory.org.

I invite you to read about the success of our 125 impressive undergraduate Ashbrook Scholars, our highly regarded citizen education programs, and the extension of our message and our mission carried out on a larger scale.

The Ashbrook Center is proud to share our growth from the past year and our plans for the future. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, Ashbrook takes our commitment seriously to continue the valuable work of educating students, teachers, and citizens what it means to be American.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Beckett
Executive Director

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We are transitioning from a June–May fiscal year report to a calendar year report. As part of the transition, this specific report reflects programs and achievements from June 1, 2015–December 2016.
Ashbrook Programs

The Ashbrook Center continues to experience great success and growth in our student, teacher, and citizen education programs. Below are highlights from the past 18 months.

### Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highlight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To date, 12,000+ teachers have participated in our courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashbrook offered 45 online courses.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Religion in American History online exhibit expanded teaching resources</td>
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### Teachers

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Webinars for high school students</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers use educational materials on Ashbrook’s TeachingAmericanHistory.org each month.</td>
<td>51,000+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Ashbrook Scholars welcomed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A combined total of 106 one-week fellowships were offered to teachers from 36 states to attend our on-campus courses during the summers of 2015 and 2016.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashbrook conducted 23 total webinars for over 1,930 teachers.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>45 Ashbrook offered online courses.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Ashbrook conducted total webinars for over 1,930 teachers.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashbrook conducted 34 weekend colloquia at historical sites for 640 teachers.</td>
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### Citizens

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<tr>
<td>Ashbrook Colloquia conducted for a total of 1,080 attendees.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Major Issues Lecture Series luncheons for students, teachers, and supporters.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>671 Peter W. Schramm Memorial Lecture with attendees.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To date, distributed 80,000 printed and electronic copies of “50 Core American Documents”</td>
<td></td>
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Communications

Efforts to expand Ashbrook’s communications continued on a national level. As a result, we have been active in telling our story through many different media platforms.

Print & Online

14 Opinion-Editorials picked up in 45 publications
11 feature Articles & Releases with pickups in 37 states

Radio

29 radio interviews in 26 states (including national syndication)

Television – CBS Affiliate WOIO Cleveland 19 News

3 Focus Group Watch Parties featuring a set of local panelists reacting to the GOP Debate and two Presidential Debates.
2 live in-studio interviews of experts from Ashbrook.

Ashbrook Op-Ed in Wall Street Journal

Ashbrook Senior Fellow David Tucker’s Columbus Day op-ed was featured in The Wall Street Journal garnering well over 1 million media impressions and earning a spot that day in the top 5 most read articles on their website.

Filmed Live from Ashbrook

WOIO and Ashbrook partnered for three separate focus group watch parties filmed on site in the Ashbrook Center. Each watch party featured 10 local panelists interacting with the reporter and offering reactions to the GOP debate and two of the Presidential Debates.

Live In-Studio Interviews

Executive Director Roger Beckett was interviewed in-studio at WOIO as an expert regarding the Ohio primary, and Professor Jeff Sikkenga was interviewed in-studio at WOIO as an expert for election night coverage and post-election analysis.

Year at a Glance

Ashbrook has received media coverage in 43 states

New Ashbrook Civics Quiz

Earlier in the year, Ashbrook introduced a new citizen education initiative with the launch and creation of a series of civics quizzes that are distributed through a news syndicate to various papers throughout the country. The quizzes are tied to key dates or events of historical significance such as Independence Day, the anniversary of Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech and Constitution Day. Check out Ashbrook.org to test your knowledge!
Student Programs

Ashbrook Center Classroom Webinars

Thanks to funding received from the Hilda E. Bretzlaff Foundation, Ashbrook was able to utilize WebEx virtual classroom technology to deliver our signature discussion-based study of primary source documents to high school students across the country during the 2015–16 school year. A series of hour-long webinars centered on important themes in American history and government allow students to view and engage in live conversation and discussion with an Ashbrook professor who is an expert in the field. As part of this series of webinars, an important primary source document is selected from 50 Core American Documents, and our faculty partner leads students through a careful reading and discussion of the document. These webinars develop a student’s understanding of our country’s Founding documents and the principles of American constitutional self-government.

In the past 18 months, total attendance in these classroom webinars exceeded 880 students. We are pleased and grateful to the Bretzlaff Foundation for continuing to sponsor this series of webinars into the 2016–17 school year.

Ashbrook Academy

The first Ashbrook Academy for rising high school juniors and seniors was held in summer 2015. In summer 2016, we built upon the success of the first year by holding two academies. The 39 participants, coming from 16 different states, were led in a deep analysis of the documents and speeches that have shaped American history and politics. Unlike many other programs that tend to erode young Americans’ proper pride in their country, the Ashbrook Academy invites students to consider the American experiment as a victory for reason and the human spirit that demands serious study. By the end of the weeklong program, students acquire a deep understanding of the fundamental principles that define and unite us as Americans.
Ashbrook Scholar Program

For the American experiment in self-government to endure, America’s founding principles must be taught anew to each generation of citizens. Through the use of great books and original historical documents, our signature Ashbrook Scholar Program heeds that call.

The Ashbrook Scholar Program is a rigorous and top-rated academic program for a select group of undergraduate students majoring or minoring in Political Science or History at Ashland University. Students study the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as well as everything from Homer and Aristotle to The Federalist Papers and the speeches and deeds of America’s greatest statesmen.

Ashbrook Scholars experience a learning environment far removed from a standard college education as they develop a deep understanding of America’s founding principles. Ashbrook Scholars engage in private conversations with distinguished speakers who visit Ashbrook and participate in a traditional, liberal-arts education that prepares them for success in any career.

Internships

Internships are a critical part of the Ashbrook Scholar Program because they help to tie together academic studies with practical experience in the fields of politics, public policy, and historical research. Ashbrook Scholars are offered the opportunity to intern in a wide variety of national institutions and in many government offices on the local, state, and national level. This year, in addition to study abroad programs in Israel and Costa Rica, Ashbrook Scholars participated in internships at the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, the Heritage Foundation, the Club for Growth, the offices of Congressman Bob Latta and Congressman Bob Gibbs, and at the National Naval Aviation Museum.

Statesmanship Thesis

Ashbrook Scholars are required to write and defend a thesis in their senior year. Only 5% of colleges require an undergraduate thesis, and few require students to orally defend their thesis work. The thesis is the culmination of their entire undergraduate education and an expression of what they are capable of intellectually. Each Scholar’s thesis grows from a question of personal importance and draws insightful connections between their studies of history, political thought, and American principles. A few titles from this academic year include: Answering the Irish Question: Winston Churchill and the Formation of the Irish Free State; A Comparison of Scalia and the Founders on How to Interpret the Constitution; The 1997 Thai Financial Crisis: Causes and Contentions; and The Christian Ultimatum: Self-Defense, Martyrdom, or Both.

Halle Hershberger, D. Louise and Edward S. Young Endowed Scholarship recipient, exemplifies determination combined with careful preparation for her future. She interned for ten weeks last summer at the Heritage Foundation, handling donor communications and creating 200-word summaries of policy briefings for an online blog.

“My experience as an Ashbrook Scholar gave me confidence, and because of my study of American political principles, I feel well prepared for the political world. I really enjoyed the opportunity to apply what I have learned in my Ashbrook classes when discussing important topics. We have to understand where we’re coming from to know where we’re going. I have a firm understanding of what I believe in.”
Master of Arts in American History and Government (MAHG)

MAHG and its fully online companion, the Master of Arts with a Specialization in Teaching American History and Government (MASTAHG), represent the deepest and most transformative educational experience available to social studies teachers. The programs’ unique summer-and-online curriculum, designed around the schedule of a full-time teacher, allows teachers from across the country access to a first-rate academic program.

Enrollment in our online courses has grown steadily. These courses maintain the discussion-oriented and document-based spirit of the MAHG program. Students and faculty converse via webcams and microphones live and in real-time. The interactive design of our Live Online courses allows students to participate in a real academic discussion without leaving home.

Focused on the discussion of original documents, MAHG and MASTAHG classes give teachers the content knowledge they need to guide their students’ own inquiry. MAHG students return to their classrooms equipped to teach using the same methods of instruction used by the program’s faculty, replacing textbooks with the study of original sources. The teachers learn to introduce students to the minds of those who made America what it is. Learning in this way, students gain critical thinking skills, as well as a greater understanding of America’s history and political institutions. This kind of education is essential to achieve the Ashbrook Center’s mission of strengthening and restoring constitutional self-government.

The availability of online courses year round has led to a surge in enrollment. In the first year alone, the program saw registrations nearly double. Enrollment continues to grow as word of MAHG’s quality and convenience continues to spread. Combined summer enrollment exceeded 400 for the first time in the program’s history. Fall 2016 enrollment exceeded expectations, shattering records and requiring additional sections to accommodate a surge in new students.

Similar growth is anticipated for the Spring 2017 semester in part because of a new nationwide effort to prepare high school teachers to teach college-level courses in American history and U.S. government.

Buchwald Summer Fellowship Program

As important as online courses have been to the growth of the MAHG program, the heart of the degree program — and of the Ashbrook community — is found in our summer on-campus courses. For this reason, it was important for us to make the summer MAHG program a central part of Rediscovering America. We did so by launching the Buchwald Summer Fellowship Program, through which we gave outstanding teachers a scholarship to enable them to join us on campus for a course during the Summer 2015 semester. During the first year, 96 students were awarded the Buchwald Fellowship. Of those 96, 27 have enrolled in one of the degree programs or have taken additional courses on a non-degree basis. In the Summer of 2016, 10 additional students were awarded the Buchwald Summer Fellowship.

Ashbrook Ambassadors

One way we seek to leverage relationships with teachers we have trained is through a group we are calling
“Ashbrook Ambassadors.” In order to sustain the rapid growth Ashbrook expects to achieve in our teacher programming, we identified a select group of teachers, mostly MAHG graduates, who are active in the profession. We have asked this group of Ashbrook Ambassadors to help us. First, we want them to broaden our reach by serving as hosts for Ashbrook seminars and weekend colloquia (under the academic direction of a member of our faculty network). Second, we have asked our corps of Ambassadors to represent Ashbrook at national and state conferences for social studies teachers. We have also asked Ambassadors to help us develop programming partnerships with educational organizations they or their contacts represent (whether schools, districts, or local organizations with active outreaches to history or civics teachers).

To date, Ashbrook Ambassadors have represented Ashbrook at social studies conferences in Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Arizona, and in programs at various sites around the country. Ambassadors have helped to establish connections and outreach in several states such as Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Arizona, California, and more.

**Weekend Colloquia at Historic Sites Co-Sponsored by Liberty Fund**

In December 2009, the Ashbrook Center signed a co-sponsored program agreement with Liberty Fund. Under this agreement, Liberty Fund financed seven seminars for high school teachers, organized by the Ashbrook Center, during the 2016–17 academic year. Liberty Fund, Inc. is a private educational foundation established to encourage the study of the ideal of a society of free and responsible individuals. Based in Indianapolis, Liberty Fund develops, supervises, and finances its own educational activities to foster thought and encourage discourse on enduring issues pertaining to liberty. Liberty Fund publishes as many as 20 or more books each year covering topics in history, politics, philosophy, law, education, and economics. Each year, Liberty Fund also conducts over 150 conferences throughout the United States, Canada, Latin America, and Europe. The Ashbrook Center has been selected as one of ten co-sponsoring organizations to coordinate some of the conferences to various audiences. Given our respective commitments to encouraging conversations about liberty, this has been a fruitful partnership.

The 2016–17 academic year seminars are centered on the topics of Presidents and the Constitution: James Madison (Montpelier, VA); Presidents and the Constitution: Abraham Lincoln (Springfield, IL); Presidents and the Constitution: George Washington (Alexandria, VA); Presidents and the Constitution: Andrew Jackson (Nashville, TN); Presidents and the Constitution: Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville, VA); Liberty and The Federalist Papers (Philadelphia, PA); and Slavery and the Constitution (Washington, DC). Ashbrook is funded for up to 18 teachers per program, for a total of 126 teachers. This series of colloquia has grown to be very popular with teachers.

**Ashbrook Weekend Colloquia at Historic Sites**

Ashbrook conducted a total of 34 Weekend Colloquia at Historic Sites in Fall of 2015 and Spring, Summer, and Fall of 2016. Each program is intended to accommodate up to 25 teachers for a weekend of discussion about important topics from American History and Government at historic sites around the country. Interest from teacher applicants about these programs has been great. We received over 800 applications for the nine weekends scheduled during the summer, which is four applications for every one program spot available.
“An extra bit of patriotism and pride for my education has come over me this morning. Political discourse, it seems, has been reduced to the mere shouting of words and antagonizing of others when they do not agree. Our world is consumed with tweets and blurbs that provide a false impression that we are changing the world through the 140 character messages we type on our phones, attempting to be the loudest voice in a sea of millions...It is with this thought in mind that my appreciation for Ashbrook intensifies. It was not until I entered this world on my own that I realized those around me did not see the world through the eyes of Madison and Jefferson like I did. Principles are quickly retreating, but the education I received helps to keep me grounded.

“In short, thank you for the work you and the team do every day. It does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. America is better because of programs like Ashbrook.”

Chris Dolbow
Ashbrook Scholar Alum, ’14
Government Specialist, Fastenal

Ashbrook Events

Ashbrook hosts events inside and outside Ohio to support our mission. During the past 18 months, we held 29 events including the 31st John M. Ashbrook Memorial Dinner featuring Ed Rollins.

Sunday Masters of Arts in American History and Government Lectures

July 10, 2016 .......... Jason Jividen .......... “Progressivism and the Lincoln Legacy”

Ashbrook Colloquia

September 25, 2015 .......... Jeanne & David Heidler .......... “Establishing the First Presidency”
October 23, 2015 .......... William Voegeli .......... “Compassion and Its Complications”
April 1, 2016 .......... Steven Forde .......... “John Locke: Liberalism & Modern Science”
April 15, 2016 .......... Joseph Fornieri .......... “Lincoln’s Philosophical Statesmanship”
October 28, 2016 .......... David Tucker .......... “What is the Best Way to Deal With ISIS, al Qaeda and Similar Organizations?”
Sam Agami shares his thoughts on what makes Ashbrook’s Master of Arts in American History and Government degree program unique:

“If we want to have our children and students to truly understand what it means to be American – to understand the principles on which this country was founded – we need programs like those Ashbrook provides for teachers. Our education colleges don’t provide this substance and content.”

Rediscovering America Teacher Program Attendee

“I learned from Lincoln and Washington and Jefferson. We are all Americans, united in the American effort. [Through the Ashbrook Academy] we also learned how to be better statesmen, better American citizens. We are learning how to have an open mind, to argue, and have discourse.”

Grant S.
Ashbrook Academy Participant
Minnesota

Sam Agami
Master of Arts in American History
and Government Graduate
Virginia Beach, VA
Rediscovering America

Academic Year 2015–2016 Highlights

Thanks to Ashbrook Board member Jim Buchwald’s vision and the support of Ariel Corporation, Rediscovering America continues to be central to Ashbrook’s growth and mission.

Rediscovering America experienced great success and growth this past year moving towards our goal of putting an Ashbrook-educated teacher in each of the nation’s 35,000 secondary schools. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, Ashbrook was able to offer teachers a wide range of educational resources and programs online and on site at Ashland University and in states across the country. Ashbrook is transforming the way American history and civics are taught in classrooms throughout the country.

Recent studies have shown that we are not only a nation quickly losing touch with our history and our founding principles, but a nation where some are no longer proud to be an American. Without a major change in how teachers are taught, we will raise yet another generation of students who do not understand what it means to be an American.

To date, over 12,000 teachers have participated in Ashbrook’s residential and online graduate courses, webinars, one-day seminars, and colloquia at historic sites—including over 6,000 teachers in the past 18 months!

Awarded a combined total of 106 Buchwald Fellowships for teachers from 36 states to attend our on-campus graduate courses during the summers of 2015 and 2016.

Enrolled 387 teachers in our on-campus and online MAHG degree program.

Offered 45 online courses for teachers on topics such as:
• American Founding
• American Revolution
• Civil War and Reconstruction

Expanded the teaching resources offered on TeachingAmericanHistory.org by creating a new online exhibit on Religion in American History and enhancing the Bill of Rights online exhibit.

Conducted 34 weekend colloquia for 640 teachers at historic sites including:
• George Washington’s Mount Vernon
• Philadelphia’s Independence Park
• Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello

Conducted 23 total online webinars for over 1,930 teachers focusing on American Presidents and Landmark Supreme Court Cases.

Conducted 90 day-long seminars in 11 states for 1,677 teachers.

Enrolled 387 teachers in our on-campus and online MAHG degree program.

Reaching over 51,000 teachers who use educational materials on Ashbrook’s TeachingAmericanHistory.org website monthly or more often. Ashbrook helps teachers reduce their dependence on textbooks and teach with primary sources through conversation—introducing young Americans to our true history and great constitutional principles—preparing them to be the educated citizens our country desperately needs.
2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget

Note: This budget reflects revenue and expenditures for the most recent fiscal year: 6/1/15 – 5/31/16.

Revenue

- **Major Gifts**: $3,667,206
- **Tuition & Fees**: $1,101,317
- **Foundations**: $767,650
- **Direct Mail Donations**: $349,981
- **Event Sponsorship & Tickets**: $226,215
- **Endowments & Investments**: $80,396

Total Revenue: $6,101,765

Expenses

- **Teacher Education Programs**: $3,194,965
- **Citizen Education/Outreach Events**: $1,145,032
- **Student Education Programs**: $554,612
- **Development**: $538,476
- **Administration**: $318,698

Total Expenses: $5,751,783
Our Mission

The mission of Ashbrook is to restore and strengthen the capacities of the American people for constitutional self-government. Through undergraduate, graduate, and civic programs, the Ashbrook Center aspires to be the leading national educator in the enduring principles and practice of free government in the United States.