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May 1st, 2017

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Rutgers Celebrates Launch of Center for Youth Political Participation

(New Brunswick, NJ) **The Eagleton Institute of Politics and Rutgers University announced today** the launch of the [Center for Youth Political Participation \(CYPP\)](#). The new Center will offer initiatives focused on young people's political learning and engagement, including:

- RU Ready, a partnership with New Brunswick High School that offers students the tools and encouragement to be civically engaged;
- RU Voting, Rutgers University's voting resource;
- RU Running, political campaign training for college students.

CYPP is led by assistant research professor Dr. Elizabeth Matto, who has directed Eagleton's Youth Political Participation Program for the past ten years. Under her leadership, the program has become a nationally recognized resource for scholars and practitioners looking for ways to engage young people in the political process.

"By establishing the Center for Youth Political Participation, Rutgers is underscoring the importance of engaging young people in politics, both in New Jersey and nationwide," said Dr. Matto. "We are positioning CYPP at the forefront of civic engagement research and campus programming, offering cutting-edge strategies to engage young adults in the political process."

"At the Eagleton Institute of Politics, we ask how the American political system might work better, and greater youth engagement is one obvious area to explore. Creating a Center on Youth Political Participation allows us to extend our work in new directions, with new approaches for connecting young people with politics" said Ruth B. Mandel, director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

In the coming year, the Center will develop research and programming addressing the political engagement of first generation college students. The Center also plans to expand the reach of RU Running and RU Ready, offering other colleges and universities models for how to structure similar initiatives on their own campuses.

Matto is lead editor of the forthcoming book and companion website, *Teaching Civic Engagement Across Disciplines*, forthcoming from the American Political Science Association. The central premise of the text is that teaching students to be informed and engaged citizens is a shared responsibility that crosses all disciplines. Its publication will place CYPP in a leading role in national discussions regarding civic education at colleges and universities.

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About Eagleton

The Eagleton Institute of Politics explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. The Institute focuses attention on how the American political system works, how it changes, and how it might work better.

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