



Institute for Civic Education (ICE)—1960s

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Director Charles “Chuck” Blair, Assistant Director Mary Elizabeth Chesrown, and student leader Thadd Garrett are gone now, but the work of the Institute for Civic Education (ICE) in the 1960s set the stage for the urbanization of Akron by raising awareness and providing education and programming on challenging issues.

1968 was a pivotal year. I remember lively discussions on mayoral and presidential campaigns, as well as civil rights. The Young Republicans on campus supported Nelson Rockefeller for the nomination. Several went to the national convention but were disenchanted when Nixon got the nod. The

ICE also monitored the racial problems in Akron that summer.

Today, social media provides a platform and networking opportunities for civic issues. In 1960s Akron, it was The Institute for Civic Education.