

## Greetings!

The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) in its effort to broaden its outreach has expanded its communication to electronic newsletters. Through this medium, we will update you on LCE programming monthly so that either as a volunteer, teacher, student or supporter you have the opportunity to learn more about the LCE's work across Louisiana.

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### *LCE growing the We the People Program in Louisiana.*



The LCE has mapped out an aggressive plan for improving civic education in Louisiana for 2007. As part of its attempt to expand the reach of citizenship training in Louisiana, the LCE has become the statewide coordinator for the *We the People* program.

While the organization was selected over a year ago, it has been planning the coordination of the state wide program for full implementation in the current year. The *We the People* program is a national program directed by the Center for Civic Education and is funded by the United States Department of Education by act of Congress.

It is a multi-layered approach to enhancing a student's knowledge of civics. When Louisiana teachers sign up, they receive training on the curriculum, 30 books which are provided **free**, along with a teacher's guide and instructional pack of supplies for educators to complete the program. Upon completion of the course, each student receives a certificate of achievement signed by their member of Congress or other prominent official.

High Schools that implement and complete the

## Civic Education Teacher of the Year Chosen.



Ms. Sharlene Algaier of Woodlake Elementary in Mandeville, Louisiana has been selected as the Civic Education Teacher of the Year. She will be honored at a reception during the midyear meeting of the Louisiana State Bar Association on Friday, January 19, 2007 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, in New Orleans.

Ms. Algaier incorporates Law Related Education in the classroom by having her 8 year old students write a constitution, conduct Parliamentary meetings and by electing representative officers. These young citizens also conduct mock trials of the *We the People* curriculum on Constitution Day. They also support local judges and recently planted a tree in memory of the late Judge Dragon of Slidell.

She has even created a city called "National Kitty Town" which functions like a mini-city with a mayor, judge, police officers and a tax collector. The students participated in

program become eligible to participate in the nationally recognized *We the People* Competition where students compete in a simulated congressional hearing. The initial competition takes place on a regional level, proceeds to a state level and the state champion competes in the National Competition in Washington, D.C. on behalf of Louisiana.

### LCE Partners with Louisiana Secretary of State and Department of Education.

The LCE joins forces with the Louisiana Department of Education and Secretary of State, Jay Dardenne to promote and expand the reach of its Y-Vote program. Y-Vote, which stands for Youth Vote is a co-curricular program that encourages Louisiana students to take an active role in their government whether at the school, city, state or national level. This year over 204,224 students voted in the Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) mock elections nationwide and of that number only 768 students from 16 Louisiana schools participated.



Through the partnership, the Department of Education will inform all schools in Louisiana about the benefits of the Y-Vote program and also about how schools can sign up. The Secretary of State and LCE will provide curriculum for registered schools and access to e-mock elections on a local, statewide and federal level. Through this program, students will also have the opportunity to simulate the role of a representative in the United States Congress, by researching and drafting legislation. They will also have the opportunity to debate in legislative committees and vote along with thousands of other students across the country via the internet.

As an additional benefit, high school seniors will be provided easy access to registering to vote through participation in the program. The goal of the program is to help Louisiana's students become engaged citizens, empowered with the ability and knowledge of how to make government work for them.

### LCE looking for Civic Minded Student.

The LCE is now accepting nominations for its Civics in Action Student Award (CIA). The CIA award is a new award in which the Center is seeking to acknowledge the student who best exemplifies what it means to be

selecting the city's name by exercising their voting rights.

At the end of the school year her students convert their civic learning to action. For example, after Hurricane Katrina, they visited the state capital and presented their concerns regarding littering and homeless pets to their State Representative, Tim Burns. Ms. Algaire teaches not only the proverbial three R's, but she is proficient at teaching her students the fourth "R"- rights, responsibilities and the role of the responsible citizen.

Ms. Algaier will be a guest faculty member at the Center's Summer Teacher's Institute and a guest student at the first Justice Institute. The Justice Institute which is a part of the Center's *Order in the Court* program is a week long educational experience for Louisiana teachers who have the benefit of learning about the structure of the Court system in Louisiana. The Institutes faculty consists of federal and state judges and will be held at the Louisiana Supreme Court. She will also receive a monetary award to aid in the purchase of civics related instructional material and a plaque.

## RESOURCES IN LAW AND CIVIC EDUCATION

[Constitutional Rights Foundation](#)

[Street Law](#)

[Center for Civic Education](#)

[Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education](#)

an engaged citizen. The student must be committed to making a difference through the use of government or their school environment.

This award will be given by the LCE at the Annual meeting of the Louisiana State Bar Association in Sandestin Florida. Do you know of any student that has tried to effecuate change by authoring a bill for consideration by the state legislature? Has a student in your school sought policy change by drafting a policy and submitted it to the school administration, board or PTO? You might just know of that student who understands what true citizenship means. Tell us about him/her.

### [CIA Award Nomination Form](#)

#### Mark your Calendar.

January 19, 2007- Civic Teacher of the Year Award Presentation, J.W. Marriott, New Orleans, 6-7:30 pm.

February 2, 2007- We the People State Competition (Gretna).

May 4, 2007- Law Day Summit for Students- (Lafayette).

July 16-17, 2007- Justice Institute (Teacher Training)- Louisiana State Supreme Court (New Orleans)

July 18-19, 2007- Teacher's Summer Institute ( Teacher Training re: LCE curriculum)-Louisiana State Bar Center (New Orleans).

September 17, 2007- **Constitution Day Program** - celebrates the 1787 signing of our founding document (location to be announced).

September 6-8, 2007- American Bar Association National Conference on Law-Related Education, Montelone Hotel, New Orleans.

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