

# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **LOUISIANA TEACHERS SCHOOLED IN LAW AND CIVICS**

*New Orleans, LA July 26, 2006:* Teachers representing schools in Rapides, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette and Ascension parishes attended the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Institute. The teachers learned of new interactive teaching methods that educate their students about the law and legal system which promote civic participation. The Institute was held July 17-20, 2006, at the Baton Rouge Bar Association.

The Institute is designed to:

- Introduce teachers to lesson plans that get the student involved in learning how government works;
- Introduce new teaching methods including how to present an argument during a congressional hearing, how to get government to respond by introducing students to the process of getting bills passed in the government.
- Include technology to reinforce lessons in government, civics and the law through such web based games as “Who wants to be a Million Dollar Citizen?”
- Involve teachers to in the “We the People” Program, a national recognized program where students after regional competition get to compete in the halls of Congress.

During the four day learning session, the participants were involved in a mock Congressional hearing where they addressed issues regarding the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth.

Judge Downing, of the First Circuit Court of Appeal in Baton Rouge who presided over the mock proceeding stated that “Through the LCE’s “We the People” programs, teachers and students

experience the Constitution and make the document come alive in the educational setting. This program is needed in every school.”

High School educator, Liz Tullier of Northside High School in Lafayette, Louisiana agrees. She states "I feel that the summer institute allows educators to be actively engaged in a four day institute where we are given lesson plans that we can take back to our schools". I would recommend the summer institute to all middle and high school educators who are teachers of civics and law-related courses.”

Kirby Gordon, a middle school educator at Galvez Middle School in Ascension Parish found “the Institute extremely informative” “I was unaware of how much helpful information is available in the field of civic education. Since I teach middle school students I am planning on having a congressional hearing demonstration at our school and will be calling upon LCE to help get judges and ideas to make sure it is a success.”

The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCE) is a statewide non-profit organization that coordinates implements and develops Law and Civic Education programs, throughout the State of Louisiana. The LCE may be reached at [www.lalce.org](http://www.lalce.org) or by contacting its Executive Director, Maria Yiannopoulos at [maria@lalce.org](mailto:maria@lalce.org)

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