The team representing Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies in Metairie won the state title in the “We the People” competition held at Loyola University in New Orleans. The team, led by teacher Chris Totaro, advances to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Also competing in the state finals were teams from Edna Karr High School and John Ehret High School. Team teachers Andrew Renard, Bradley Kiff, and Totaro are to be commended for bringing their students to this level of academic achievement.

WTP is one of the programs that the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) utilizes to promote civic competence and responsibility among Louisiana’s students. Taken to its highest level, this instructional civics curriculum has students “testify” at simulated congressional hearings before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to evaluate, take and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

The panel of judges consisted of attorneys, educators, and WTP alumni, including attorney and WTP alumna Heather W. Angelico; attorney Jason D. Asbill; Louisiana WTP alumna and attorney Lori D. Barker; Louisiana WTP Alumni Representative Tyler Barker, Ph.D.; WTP alumna Mariarenee Contreras and Kathryn Cook; educator Joann Cowgill; attorney Nahum D. Laventhal; WTP alumna Philip Lundy; educator Ann Majeste; attorney Christopher A. Meeks; WTP alumni Bryce Menge, Sabrine Mohamed and Hugh Ngo; educator Martha Palmer; WTP alumna Alexci Perilloux; Judge Raymond S. Steib, Jr.; Louisiana WTP alumna Ameer Thabata; Rana Thabata and Jabarie Walker; and Loyola University Political Science Associate Professor Roger White, M.A., Ph.D.