



***We the People* Summer Institute Offers Training for Educators**

The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) presented the Louisiana *We the People* Summer Institute in July at Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center in Baton Rouge. An intensive seven-day teachers' workshop, the Summer Institute provided professional development at the elementary, middle and high school levels. This program was provided at no cost to Louisiana teachers who received lodging, meals and free *We the People* textbooks for their classrooms.

LSU Law Center Chancellor Jack M. Weiss addressed the group. Also, six constitutional scholars from across the nation participated as lecturers and provided personal insight in areas that correlated with the *We the People* curriculum. Each afternoon, participants were given interactive training sessions on how to implement the program in the classroom. The culminating activity was a simulated congressional hearing performed by each of the participants.

At the event's closing ceremonies, LCLCE President Brian J. Engeron expressed his appreciation to the teachers for their dedication in developing their skills as educators. Engeron presented

each teacher with a certificate of continuing learning units.

The constitutional scholars were Justice (Ret.) Susan Leeson, Oregon Supreme Court; John Kaminski, professor of history, Center for the Study of the American Constitution; Jasmine Farrier, Ph.D., associate professor, University of Louisville; Robert L. Dion, Ph.D., associate professor of political science, Department of Law, Politics and Society, University of Evansville; Matthew R. Gutwein, adjunct professor of law, Indiana University, CEO, Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County; and Thomas S. Vontz, Ph.D., associate professor and director, Center for Social Studies Education, Kansas State University.

The expert teaching mentors were Elizabeth Bailey, Indiana; Patricia Baumgartner, Missouri; Aaron Hull, Connecticut; Jamie Staub, Louisiana; Tim Moore, Wisconsin; and Kimberly Tetzlaff, California.

The volunteer judges presiding over the congressional hearings were Professor John M. Church, Harry S. Redmon Professor of Law, LSU Law Center; Brian J. Engeron, LCLCE

president; Robert Rome, Louisiana *We the People* district coordinator; attorney Gary Cotogno; Ann Majeste, Louisiana elementary school teacher; and Tyler Barker, Louisiana *We the People* student alumni representative.

The program organizers thanked LSU Law Center Chancellor Weiss and LSU Law Center Vice Chancellor Christopher Pietruszkiewicz for their support of the program and for the use of the Law Center. This program was made possible with cy pres funds from the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana, and a grant from the Center for Civic Education.

The national *We the People: The Citizens and the Constitution* program, designed to promote a deeper understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education. Louisiana's program, administered by the LCLCE, promotes civic competence and responsibility among students. The LCLCE is the education arm of the Louisiana State Bar Association and is funded in part by the Louisiana Bar Foundation.



Instructors for the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education's *We the People* Summer Institute included, from left, teaching mentor Tim Moore, Wisconsin; constitutional scholar Matthew R. Gutwein, Indiana University; and teaching mentor Elizabeth Bailey, Indiana.



Members of the 2010 class of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education's *We the People* Summer Institute.



Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education President Brian J. Engeron, seated far right, with participants of the Louisiana *We the People* Summer Institute.