



Voting/Good Citizenship Program Benefits 3,300 Students

The “Citizens, Not Spectators” program is a free voting curriculum that emphasizes the importance of voting and good citizenship. This program aids in demystifying the voting process by teaching elementary, middle and high school students how to cast a vote, how the voting process works, and why it is important to cast an informed vote. Teachers who utilize this curriculum for the first time can earn up to \$300 for the purchase of law-related materials for their classrooms. This year, the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) was instrumental in engaging more than 3,300 students in the program and in bringing more than \$5,000 to participating Louisiana schools for the purchase of law-related education materials. More than 175 students registered to vote.

The Louisiana teachers and schools participating in this year’s program included: Virginia Reedy-Lindsey, Westdale Heights Academic Magnet School; Joelle Flaherty, Montessori Educational Center; Emily Antrainer, Cedarwood Middle School; Carrie Menge, Southeast Middle School; Zana Curley, Belle Chasse Middle School; Carla Powell, Belaire High School; Evelyn Longino, Red River High School; Brendan Gonzalez, Benjamin Franklin High School; Wanda Murphy, Claiborne Christian School; Robyn Verbois, Christian Life Academy; Jordan Smith, Jennings High School; Monica Speyrer, C.E. Byrd High School; Missy Varnado, Bowling Green School; Shannon Hudson, St. Amant High School; Mallory Manuel, Academy of the Sacred Heart; Jennifer Donewar, Mandeville High School; and Liz Tullier, Academy of Legal Studies at Northside High School.

Several of the teachers provided positive feedback on the program.

Wanda Murphy, a teacher at Claiborne



Students at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans were among the 3,300 Louisiana students participating in the “Citizens, Not Spectators” program this year.

Christian School in West Monroe, said even her younger students were excited. “I have taught the ‘Citizens, Not Spectators’ curriculum, supplemented with *geauxvote.com* and ‘We the People’ materials. We have analyzed each of the planks in the platforms of the Republicans, Democrats and Libertarians. It has been an eye-opener for each of my high school classes. Thank you for giving us the nudge to educate students in this way.”

Evelyn Longino, a teacher at Red River High School in Coushatta, agreed. “I used the program in all my civics classes, which impacted 57 students. The program was great and aligned with our civics standards. I feel the students better understand the importance of being an informed and involved citizen. I think they have a better understanding of the election process and the voting procedures.”

“The kids absolutely loved it,” said Brendan Gonzalez, a teacher at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans.

This program is made possible through a cooperative effort of the Center for Civic Education, the Arsalyn Program of Ludwick Family Foundation and the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education.



Students at Claiborne Christian School in West Monroe were among the 3,300 students statewide participating in the “Citizens, Not Spectators” voting/good citizenship program.