

## La. Center for Law and Civic Education Selects the Civic Education Teacher of the Year

New Orleans, Louisiana January 8, 2007 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 Mid-year 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 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" where their society functions like a mini city with a mayor, judge, police officers and a tax collector. The students participated in selecting the name of the city by exercising their voting rights. Ms. Algaier says "that this program provides citizenship training by helping them understand the democratic process."

At the end of the school year her students convert their civic learning to action. After Hurricane Katrina, they visited their state capital and presented their concerns regarding littering and homeless pets to their State Representative, Tim Burns. Ms. Algaire says, "That she teaches beyond the proverbial three R's because its necessary to prepare her students for the future." The LCE thinks that she is also effective at teaching Louisiana 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 Teacher's Institute held this summer and guest student at its first Justice Institute at the Louisiana Supreme Court. The Justice Institute, a part of the *Order in the Court* program, will also be held in July and the faculty consists of federal and state judges who will teach Louisiana Teachers about the structure of the Court system in Louisiana. She will also receive a monetary award for the purchase of law related or civic education materials and plaque.

### **About La. Center for Law and Civic Education**

The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCE) is a non-profit organization that has been in existence since 1995. The Center coordinates implements and develops Law and Civic Education programs, trains others in the delivery of Law and Civic Education, assists with the delivery of quality Law and Civic Education programs throughout the State of Louisiana. Our programs are nationally recognized and conform to the State of Louisiana's Social Studies Content Standards.

Website: <http://www.lalce.org>

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