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## Metairie School Wins “We the People” State Finals

**T**he team from Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies in Metairie won the state finals in the “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution” competition in Baton Rouge. The team, led by teacher Chris Totaro, now will represent Louisiana in the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Also competing in the state finals were teams from Helen Cox High School, John Ehret High School and Glenbrook School. “We the People” (WTP) team teachers Matthew Edwards, Jonetta Jackson, 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. What makes

this program successful is the design of its instructional program, including its innovative culminating activity, the simulated congressional hearing, in which students “testify” before a panel of judges. At the state-level competition, 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 educators, attorneys and WTP team alumni, including attorney and WTP alumna Heather W. Angelico; Louisiana WTP alumni representative Tyler Barker; teacher Donald H. Broussard, Jr.; attorney and educator Belinda M. Cambre, JD, PhD; teacher Alicia N. Ferguson; teacher Camile Gautreaux; attorney Lauren E. Godshall; attorney Jack P. Harrison;

educator Supt. Darryl C. Kilbert (Ret.), Orleans Parish Public Schools; attorney Heather L. Landry; attorney Nahum D. Laventhal; WTP alumni Philip Lundy and Sabrine Mohamed; teacher Carla Powell; WTP alumnus Charles P. Regnard; attorney and educator Alice M. Snee; attorney and educator Shirley A. Snyder; and retired teacher and former LCLCE board member Betty W. Wilkerson.

Also attending the state finals were guest speaker Louisiana State Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith, District 67; WTP District Coordinators Michelle Molina, Robert Rome and Jamie Staub; Carl Dermady, Jr., M.Ed., Jefferson Parish social studies consultant (Ret.); R. Ryan Martin, Lafayette Parish School System social studies academic specialist; and Sandra Newsome, Jefferson Parish Schools support specialist.