

# *NJ Social Studies Network News*

*A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic and Law-Related Education*

## **Spring 2008**

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### **Take Action on High School Social Studies Requirements!**

The New Jersey High School Redesign Steering Committee has recently presented its report and recommendations on high school graduation requirements, including a recommendation for a required semester of economics. How might this affect you? Visit our "[Take Action Now!](#)" page under the [New Jersey Coalition to Support the Civic Mission of the Schools](#) section of our website for additional details on the report, as well as ways you can make your voice heard about these recommendations.

## **Spring 2008 Student Events in New Jersey**

### **2008 *Project Citizen* Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation**

The 2008 *Project Citizen* Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation will be held on May 30, 2008 at the Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. The NJ Project Citizen Showcase is now open to high school as well as middle school classes. Please contact us at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) if you are interested in observing this event. Click [here](#) for more information on the *Project Citizen* curriculum.

### **2008 New Jersey State *We the People* Simulated Legislative Hearings**

New Jersey *We the People* Simulated Legislative Hearings for Middle School Students will be held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick on June 6, 2008. Please contact us at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) if you are interested in observing this event. Click [here](#) for more information on the *We the People* curriculum.

## **Professional Development Opportunities**

In addition to the workshops listed below, we offer in-service workshops across the state. Please contact Arlene Gardner at [agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu) or (732) 445-3413 if you would like us to provide a professional development workshop for one of your in-service days.

### ***Summer 2008***

#### ***We the People* Summer Institute for New Jersey Middle and High School Teachers**

A special 3-day Summer Institute for middle and high school teachers from New Jersey will be held July 20-23, 2008 at Madison's Montpelier in Virginia. Yes, we will be holding a three-day New Jersey Summer Institute for New Jersey teachers in Virginia, where we can also visit Monticello and Montpelier (home of James Madison). We will be focused on Units One and Two of the curriculum, with a fantastic scholar, John Patrick, from Indiana University. There is a \$30 registration fee to hold your place, but the entire institute is free. Transportation costs will be reimbursed. Download and complete the registration form [here](#) or contact us at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) with any questions. *We only have space for 2 more teachers, so please contact our office as soon as possible to reserve your place!*

## ***Project Citizen Summer Institute in Rhode Island***

A week-long Project Citizen Summer Institute will be held July 14-20, 2008 at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. Additional information and applications for this seven-day Institute can be found on the Center for Civic Education's [website](#). The Institute is free, including reimbursement for transportation. For further details, contact Mike Trofi at [MTrofi@WestWarwickPublicSchools.com](mailto:MTrofi@WestWarwickPublicSchools.com).

## ***Fall 2008***

### ***We the People Professional Development Workshop for New Jersey Upper Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers***

We will be offering a one day [workshop](#) in New Brunswick this fall for teachers interested in using *We the People* materials in their classrooms on October 22, 2008. If you are interested in attending this workshop, we urge you to get board approval this spring. Teachers who attend this workshop will receive professional development hours and one free set of textbooks for their classrooms. Registration fee is \$30. Contact us at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) for more details.

## ***Winter 2009***

### ***Project Citizen Professional Development Workshop for New Jersey Middle and High School Teachers***

We will be offering a one day [workshop](#) in New Brunswick this fall for teachers interested in using *Project Citizen* materials in their classrooms on January 14, 2009. As with the *We the People* workshop, teachers who attend the *Project Citizen* workshop will receive professional development hours and one free set of textbooks for their classrooms. Registration fee is \$30. Contact us at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) for more details.

## **Resources for Teachers**

We offer a number of resources for social studies teachers of all levels directly through our organization. Check out the list below for information on these materials.

### **[Law, Literature and Society](#)**

These lessons provide teachers of social studies and language arts with materials to teach the interrelationship of laws, literature and societal values. We offer currently [20 free interdisciplinary lessons](#) for grades 4-12 on our website.

### **[Africa Lessons](#)**

Through our 5-year partnership with Senegal via the [Civitas Exchange Program](#), we have developed a number of lessons on African history - from the early African kingdoms of the 7th century to the emerging democracies of the 21st century. These [free lessons, in 8 separate units](#), are available on our website. Most of the units are aimed at grades 6-12, while others are geared toward high school students.

### **[Project Citizen and We the People textbooks](#)**

We are able to offer a limited number of free classroom sets of *We the People* and *Project Citizen* textbooks to social studies teachers throughout New Jersey. To apply for one free set of these textbooks, please visit our website at the links below:

[We the People \(upper elementary, middle, and high school\)](#)

[Project Citizen \(middle and high school\)](#)

### **[Conflict Resolution and United States History](#)**

This comprehensive supplement for U.S. history teachers provides a motivating methodology for teaching American history. Students use conflict resolution and problem-solving skills to roleplay historical figures, and gain important life skills and a rich understanding of history in the process. The curriculum includes:

- \* The latest scholarship from more than 25 leading historians;
- \* Roleplaying activities involving 20 conflicts in American history;
- \* Practical lessons and materials on teaching conflict resolution skills;
- \* A CD with more than 200 reproducible primary source documents, overheads/student handouts, maps, and illustrations.
- \* A DVD showing middle and high school students engaged in role-playing historical figures using conflict resolution skills.

Additional information on this curriculum package, along with a [free sample lesson](#), is available on our website. Details on [ordering this package](#) are also available on our site.

### **New!: NJ Social Studies Teachers Listserve**

Our new NJ Social Studies Teachers listserve will give social studies teachers in New Jersey timely information on notices of activities, events, teacher institutes and new civic and law-related education materials available, as well as a forum to share information with other teachers across the state.

If you are a teacher and would like to be included on this new listserve, please email us at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) with the subject line "Teacher Listserve," and include your first and last name and email in the body of the message.

Thanks for your support, and please feel free to contact our office with any questions, or for additional information on any of the programs we offer.



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