

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

February 2011

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Student Events



East Brunswick High School students pose for a class photo after winning the 24th annual NJ State *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* competition on February 4, 2011

East Brunswick High School students placed first in the 24th annual New Jersey State *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* Simulated Legislative hearings on February 4, 2011 at the State House in Trenton and will represent New Jersey at the National *We the People* Finals in Washington, D.C. West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North placed second and Bayonne High School third. Independent studies report that students who use the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* materials outperform other students on political knowledge and philosophy and are more politically tolerant than students who use traditional textbooks and teaching approaches. Contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu for more information about *We the People*.

Newark's Science Park High School was the site of the New Jersey film premiere of "*On the Shoulders of Giants*" on February 10, 2011. "On the Shoulders of Giants" is a documentary which chronicles the African American experience in the 1930's and how sports became a catalyst for civil rights through the story of the Harlem Rens, the first black basketball world champions. Basketball legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar wrote the book upon which the documentary was based. He joined 800 students at Science Park High School in Newark, as well as several thousand additional students at 55 high schools throughout New Jersey by videostream, for a lively question and answer session. Rich classroom materials are available: [Click](#) for a study guide to accompany the movie and go to <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us> for curriculum prepared by the Newark Public Schools.

If you would like to see a high quality simulated legislative hearing that meets the goals and purposes of NJCCS 6.3, you may be interested in observing the *State We the People Middle School Competition* on Wednesday, **March 30, 2011**, at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, in Piscataway. [Click](#) for more information. Contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are interested.

The **National History Day** program is seeking judges for the Southern Competition at Kean University on Sunday, **March 27**; the Northern Competition at Seton Hall University on Saturday, **April 2**; and the State Competition at William Paterson University on **May 7, 2011**. Go through the Weebly Portal on the NHD website www.nhd.org. [Click](#) to register as a judge.

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First Amendment Cartoon Contest. Encourage students to exercise their creativity by entering the First Amendment Cartoon Contest sponsored by the Judiciary of California and the Constitutional Rights Foundation in celebration of the Bill of Rights. The contest is open to K-12 students nationwide. Six winners will each receive a **\$50 gift certificate**, and up to five entries will receive honorable mentions. Winners and honorable mentions will be announced on Law Day, May 1, 2011, and posted online. Deadline for submissions is **March 18, 2011**. Go to www.courtsed.org for details or [click](#) to download a contest flyer.

This year's *Project Citizen* Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation will be held on Wednesday, **May 25, 2011** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. Classes and after-school programs for grades 5-12 are invited to participate. The first-place portfolio will be on display at the New Jersey State House and will represent New Jersey at the National *Project Citizen Showcase* at the annual meeting of the Conference of State Legislatures in July 2011. Class rosters must be submitted by May 6, 2011 to participate. [Click](#) to access the class roster or contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu for more information, to bring a participating class or to observe.

[Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from last year's *Project Citizen Showcase*.

NJ Council for the Social Studies

Complete the online **NCSS questionnaire** about social studies education. The deadline has been extended to **March 1**. Only 200 teachers from New Jersey have participated (as compared with over 2000 teachers from Florida!). Make your views known. The results of the study will be used to provide accurate information to policy makers about the role of social studies in the school curriculum and to develop workshops addressing areas of need in teaching social studies. Your responses will be anonymously stored in a data file. It takes about 5 minutes. [Click](#) to complete the online survey.

Register NOW for the **Middle States Council for the Social Studies Conference** to be held at the College Avenue Campus Center of Rutgers University in New Brunswick on Friday, **March 18, 2011**. Join your colleagues from New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. for a full-day of meetings, discussions, workshops and exhibits. An after-conference tour of the Tenement Museum and dinner in New York City is also available. Pre-registration has been extended to **March 10th** (\$80 for the conference and a year's membership) or bring your registration form to the conference on **March 18, 2011** (but it will cost \$100!). [Click](#) for additional information and the conference registration form.

SAVE THE DATE: NJCSS Annual Conference: October 27, 2011.

SUBMIT A WORKSHOP PROPOSAL: [Click](#) for the NJCSS Conference Workshop Proposal Form. Deadline: June 30, 2011.

NJSSSA and CASE

As part of the **International Civic Education Exchange** program sponsored by the New Jersey Center for Civic Education, NJSSSA and CASE members are invited to join visiting educators from Senegal and Serbia for a discussion and reception on Wednesday, **March 30, 2011**, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Rutgers Conference Center in New Brunswick, NJ. Learn first hand about the issues facing social studies education in two very different areas of the world and share your thoughts with them and with other social studies educators in New Jersey. There is no charge for this event, but an accurate count is needed so please RSVP to Marci Small at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu before March 21 if you would like to attend.

SAVE THE DATE: NJSSSA final meeting of the year: May 19, 2011.

Professional Development

The Rutgers History Department is offering "**Innovative Methods in Teaching Global and African History,**" a free, afternoon symposium (1-6 p.m.) on Friday, March 4, 2011 at Brower Commons, Rutgers University in New Brunswick. This conference honors the scholarly contributions of Prof. Emeritus Allen Howard and includes interactive workshops with a variety of faculty members. Register in advance via email to Tim Alves at talves@rci.rutgers.edu .

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Experience Paterson, sponsored by the American Labor Museum, offers a workshop and bus tour for teachers on Wednesdays, March 23 & May 11, 2011 at the Botto House National Landmark in Haledon, New Jersey. Authors, historians and educators will discuss methods of integrating labor and immigrant studies into the curriculum. Teachers will receive 8 professional development hours, and teaching materials for grades 4-12 will be distributed. Registration fee: \$65 for museum members, \$75 for non-members. [Click](#) for a registration form. Go to www.labormuseum.org, or call (973) 595-7953 for additional information.

Summer Institutes

The 2011 *Project Citizen Summer Institute* for teachers from the northeast will be held at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, **July 22-28, 2011**. This process-based civic education program for grades 5-12 emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government and involves students in understanding public policy. Classes identify a community problem, research the problem, evaluate alternative solutions, and create a political action plan to enlist local or state authorities to change or develop a policy to improve the situation. Participating teachers will receive free classroom sets of *Project Citizen* materials. Application deadline: **March 1, 2011**. [Click](#) for additional information and to register.

The **National Endowment for the Humanities** offers a variety of Summer Seminars and Institutes in Spain, Italy, France, London, Austria, and Mexico as well as at historic sites and colleges and universities in the United States. Application deadline: **March 1, 2011**. [Click](#) for additional information on seminars. For information about Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops [click here](#).

Summer Institutes in New Jersey are also available from the **New Jersey Council for the Humanities**, including Race in American History and Culture; Latino/a Lives; Poverty, Affluence and the American Dream; and Adolescent and Young Adult Literature. [Click](#) for additional information and an application form.

Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers: June 16-21 and 23-28, 2011. Sixty social studies educators will be selected to attend the six-day Institutes in Washington, DC. Co-sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society and Street Law, Inc., the Institute is designed to expand and strengthen instruction about the history, operation, and cases of the Supreme Court of the United States. Application deadline: **March 14, 2011**. [Click](#) for additional information and to register.

Study Tour on Economic Education to the Republic of South Africa for U.S. economic educators, grades 5-12, is scheduled for **July 17-August 1, 2011**. Participants will be expected to make presentations on various aspects of economic education in the United States during the program and to share their international experiences locally with teachers and other members of their communities when they return. The program is sponsored by the Council for Economic Education. The program overview and application form is posted at <http://www.councilforeconed.org/ei/apps/RFP-2011-02-10.php>. Application deadline: **March 25, 2011**. Contact ssmerdinskaya@councilforeconed.org or bdevita@councilforeconed.org.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Summer Institute **July 10-13, 2011**. Focused on the history and principles of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the *We the People* materials are easily integrated into a civics, U.S. History or U.S. Government class, or as a stand-alone curriculum. A four day Summer Institute for teachers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania will be held at the Rutgers Conference Center in New Brunswick. Participating teachers will receive curriculum materials and certificates for 30 hours of professional development and free classroom sets of books. The Institute is free; however, a \$30 non-refundable registration fee is required to reserve your place. Deadline for applications: **May 6, 2011** (but don't wait!). [Click](#) for additional information and a registration form.

Resources for Teachers

Conflict Resolution and United States History offers an engaging way to involve students in grades 5-12 in considering historical documents and multiple perspectives in order to better understand what happened in the past and why.. The printed materials include a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and power points for case studies of conflicts in American history ranging from the colonial period through the 1990s as well as a DVD. [Click](#) for a sample lesson, 4-minute video, teacher comments and an order form. Contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu for additional information or questions.

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C-SPAN Classroom is a free membership service dedicated to supporting educators' use of C-SPAN programming in their classrooms. The website, <http://c-spanclassroom.org>, provides access to hundreds of video clips which you can download and stream online, lesson plans, conference and fellowship opportunities for educators. Right now, C-SPAN is offering a FREE Presidential Timeline Poster to all new C-SPAN Classroom members. In addition, teachers and students can win prizes by competing in StudentCam, an annual documentary competition. For more information email educate@c-span.org.

Electronic New Jersey provides online access to an expanding set of curriculum units—now 23—using New Jersey history content for instruction about core themes in U. S. History. For classroom teachers grades 5-12. You can access the materials at <http://njdigitalhighway.org/enj/> or <http://njdigitalhighway.org/educators.php>.

Free resource materials about Africa from the New Jersey Center for Civic Education. Eight units from the early African kingdoms of the 7th century to the emerging democracies of the 21st century are available [online](#).

Free Interdisciplinary social studies and language arts lessons for grades 4-12 are available [online](#).

The **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** invites schools to become affiliates and join its network of American history schools and receive professional development, free and discounted publications, documents, recorded lectures, traveling exhibits, technical assistance, advice and guidance. To apply contact affiliates@gilderlehrman.org, call 646-366-9666 or visit www.gilderlehrman.org for more information.

iCivics, the web-based education project spearheaded by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, is designed to reinvigorate civics teaching and learning about the Supreme Court, the judiciary and how the three branches of government work together for upper elementary and middle school grades through online games and lessons. The ever-expanding materials can be found at <http://www.icivics.org>.

Take 2 offers students the opportunity to edit National Geographic-quality raw footage to create their *own* documentaries and shorts. Teachers do *not* need to have any video or editing skills – teaching tools are available in the supporting materials that come with the professional footage, curriculum and teaching tools. Visit www.take2videos.org or contact Karin Muller at Karin@karinmuller.com

The New Jersey Center for Civic Education is seeking teachers interested in developing and piloting international civics lessons that include examples from East Europe and Africa. Small stipend offered. Contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu.

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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.

If you have information that you would like to share with other New Jersey social studies teachers and/or supervisors, please send it by the end of the month for the next month's E-newsletter.

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Please note that the Center's area code will be changing from 732 to 848 as part of the new Rutgers University telephone system. Both area codes will work for the next three months.