

# NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

December 2014

[Professional Development](#) • [Student Events](#) • [Resources for Teachers](#) • [Social Studies Issues](#)

## NJ Council for the Social Studies

Membership in the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies includes a subscription to the biannual journal, *The Social Science Docket*, as well as a subscription to this newsletter, online resources, and professional development opportunities. Additional resources "For Members Only" are available on the Council's website at [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org).

NJCSS will not be sponsoring a spring conference for elementary teachers in 2015 due to the time pressures of testing in March and April. Instead, the Council will be sponsoring regional workshops on selected topics this spring and a two-day conference next fall, "*Invigorating Your Social Studies Classroom*," Tuesday, **October 20, 2015** for grades K-8, and Wednesday, **October 21, 2015** for grades 6-12. We hope that you will join us next fall! A Call for Workshop Proposals is available online at [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org) and due by **June 1, 2015**.

## NJSSSA

The next meeting of New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association will be held on **January 30, 2015** at NJPSA in Monroe. If you have not become a joint member of NJCSS and NJSSSA, you can still register by going to [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org).

## Student Events

**United States Senate Youth Program.** Each year, two high school students are selected as delegates to represent New Jersey during this week-long educational program in March in Washington, D.C. and receive a \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship. During Washington Week, student delegates hear major policy addresses by Senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and directors of federal agencies, and participate in a meeting with a Justice of the

U.S. Supreme Court. This year Gabriel Voorhis-Allen, from Ridgewood High School, and Maria Mendoza, from Bergen County Academies, were selected to represent New Jersey. The alternates are Prathm Juneja, from Middlesex County Technology Academy, and Nicholas Martin, from Kittatinny Regional High School. Consider sending an application next year for a junior or senior from your school who has an outstanding record of leadership and service.

**C-Span StudentCam Competition.** The theme for C-Span's 2015 StudentCam documentary competition for students in grades 6-12 is: "The Three Branches and You." Students are invited to create a 5-7 minute documentary on this topic. The documentary should tell a story that demonstrates the impact of a policy, law or action by either the executive, legislative or judicial branch on the individual or the community. Cash prizes totaling \$100,000 will be awarded to filmmakers of the top 150 documentaries, as well as the teacher advisors of the top 50 documentaries. The submission deadline is Tuesday, **January 20, 2015**. For more information go to C-Span's [StudentCam website](#).



***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy as well as the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The annual New Jersey State ***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** High School Competition will be held on **January 21, 2015**. For additional information and to see a five-minute video about the program go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/wethepeople.html>. If you are interested in bringing a competing class or observing the state competition contact [agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu). If you are interested in free access to the *We the People* ebook for middle or high school, go to [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org).

[Back to top](#)

**New Jersey History Day** is looking for Volunteer Judges for the 2015 student competitions:

- Sunday, **March 1** at Rutgers University
- Saturday, **March 7** at Kean University
- Saturday, **March 28** at Princeton University
- Saturday, **May 2** State Competition at William Paterson University

For more information, contact Nicolette Solomita at [njhistoryday@wpunj.edu](mailto:njhistoryday@wpunj.edu).



**Project Citizen** involves students in understanding public policy and emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government. The New Jersey State Project Citizen Digital Portfolio Showcase will be held online. Digital portfolios must be submitted by **May 22, 2015**. If you plan to send a class project, register your class by **January 23, 2015** by emailing [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu). [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers. For additional information about *Project Citizen* and projects from the last three years go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/projectcitizen.html>

**Virtual Supreme Court competition** offers teams of two high school students the opportunity to research cutting-edge constitutional law, write persuasive appellate briefs, argue against other students through video chats, and try to persuade a panel of attorneys during oral argument that their side is correct. The members of the grand-prize winning team will receive a free trip, including airfare and one night of hotel accommodations, to Washington, D.C. to attend the ConSource Constitution Day celebration in September 2015. Teachers interested in having their students participate should sign up at [www.HarlanInstitute.org](http://www.HarlanInstitute.org) to get started. Send questions to [info@harlaninstitute.org](mailto:info@harlaninstitute.org) or [info@consource.org](mailto:info@consource.org).

**The World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest** can help bring technology and creativity into your high school social studies classes. The contest challenges students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges: available farmland, global education, or the sixth extinction. Students can win up to \$1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum

resources. The contest deadline is **February 19, 2015**. Go to [www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest](http://www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest) for guidelines and resources.

**Speak Truth To Power Video Contest** gives middle and high school students the opportunity to embrace the responsibility of making the world a better place through learning about social justice. The contest is a collaboration with the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, the American Federation of Teachers and the Tribeca Film Institute. Judges will look for 3-5 minute videos that demonstrate independence, content knowledge and creative storytelling. The winning film will be premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. For details, resources and a look at past winners, visit: [www.speaktruthvideo.com](http://www.speaktruthvideo.com)



**Rho Kappa, the National Social Studies Honor Society** for high school students, provides national recognition and opportunities for exploration in the social studies. Sponsored by the National Council for the Social Studies, Rho Kappa is the only national organization that recognizes high school juniors and seniors for excellence in the field of social studies and participation in community service. Consider starting a local chapter at your high school. Visit <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org> for more information.



**Office of Legislative Services State House Tour.** Trained staff and volunteers provide tours and programs that match school curriculum and bring the lessons of the classroom to life in our State's capitol. Go to [http://www.nileg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/visiting\\_teacher\\_guide.asp](http://www.nileg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/visiting_teacher_guide.asp) for additional information. To schedule a visit or ask a question, call the Tour Office at 609-847-3150.

[Back to top](#)



Eagleton's Youth Political Participation Program “**State House Express**” program provides awards of up to \$350 to help eligible middle and high school classes to pay for bus rental costs to take classes on field trips to the State House in Trenton. Visit [yppp.rutgers.edu](http://yppp.rutgers.edu) for application details and teacher resources.

## Awards and Prizes

The **Mildred Barry Garvin Prize** is an award of \$1,500 to a New Jersey teacher, guidance counselor, or school librarian for outstanding teaching of black American history at any grade level between kindergarten and high school. The prize is also awarded to individuals demonstrating outstanding performance in a related activity such as developing curriculum materials. One prize is awarded annually. Nominations for the 2015 prize must be submitted by **January 5, 2015**. To nominate an educational professional submit the [Nomination Form](#) on the New Jersey Historical Commission's website that describes the nominee's qualifications and why he or she should receive the prize.

**Nominate a woman** who has made a significant influence on New Jersey history for the New Jersey Women's History website! Nominees should be women who had a substantial impact on New Jersey women's history prior to 2000. Learn about current women highlighted on the website at [www.njwomenshistory.org](http://www.njwomenshistory.org). To nominate a woman, or learn more about the guidelines, visit <http://www.njwomenshistory.org/nominations> or contact Kris Myers at [kmyers@alicepaul.org](mailto:kmyers@alicepaul.org). The deadline for nominations is Friday, **January 30, 2015**.

**Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year Awards** are sponsored by the American Lawyers Alliance. One Middle School and two High School teachers will be chosen. Teachers using materials such as the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*, Mock Trial and other law-related programs and materials in their classroom have won this award in the past. Each winner will be presented a \$1500 cash award at the annual meeting of the American Lawyers Alliance in Chicago,

Illinois, in early August 2015, as well as \$500 for hotel and travel expenses. Deadline: **March 15, 2015**. Go to [www.americanlawyersalliance.org](http://www.americanlawyersalliance.org) and click on "Annual Awards" for information about this award. For questions email [kitty.oreilley@verizon.net](mailto:kitty.oreilley@verizon.net) or [annesanto@aol.com](mailto:annesanto@aol.com).

## Professional Development

The **Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers** provides teachers with an opportunity to work with noted scholars for in-depth study and analysis of topics central to their teaching. All workshops run 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Visit <http://rcha.rutgers.edu/institute-for-high-school-teachers/seminars/2014-2015-seminar-schedule> for a full schedule, course descriptions and registration information

**Princeton East Asia Seminar** for K-12 teachers offers free seminars at Princeton University once a month on Saturdays, November 2014-May 2015 and a study tour of China and Japan or South Korea. For information contact Richard Chafey at [chafey@princeton.edu](mailto:chafey@princeton.edu) or Lesley Solomon at [lesley86@hotmail.com](mailto:lesley86@hotmail.com).



**Teaching with Primary Sources: Evidence-Based Learning** is a statewide project of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education and the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies to provide teachers with an ability to use primary sources to help students develop critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making skills. The next workshop will be held on **April 2, 2015** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. [Click](#) for additional information and the registration form.

**NEH Summer Institute for Teachers: Voices Across Time: Teaching American History Through Song** will be held **June 29-July 31, 2015** at the University of Pittsburgh. This five-week summer institute will allow 25 secondary school teachers to explore topics in American history through the lens of music. Additional information, along with application materials, is available at [www.voices.pitt.edu](http://www.voices.pitt.edu) or email: [amerimus@pitt.edu](mailto:amerimus@pitt.edu). More information about the NEH and its programs is available at [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).

[Back to top](#)

**NEH Summer Seminar for Teachers: “The Dutch Republic and Britain: The Making of Modern Society and a European World Economy”** will be offered in London, England, and Leiden, The Netherlands, **June 28 to July 31, 2015**. NEH will provide a \$3,900 stipend for expenses. The application deadline is **March 2, 2015**. For more information, see <http://www1.umassd.edu/euro/> or write [gkoot@umassd.edu](mailto:gkoot@umassd.edu).



**Putting the Pieces Together: Integrating Civics and Economics into Teaching History.** The NJ Council for Economic Education and the NJ Center for Civic Education are sponsoring their third joint summer institute July 22-23, 2015 at Rutgers University in Piscataway. This two-day program for middle and high school U.S. history, economics and civics teachers includes ten hours of professional development focused on decision-making in the past and today. A \$50 registration fee is required. Application deadline: **May 30, 2015**. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> or [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org) for an application and additional information.

## Resources for Teachers



**Put a Little New Jersey in Your Classroom.** Commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Jersey by incorporating lessons about New Jersey into your curriculum in 2014 and in future years! New Jersey Lessons are being placed online on a daily basis at <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/njlessons.html> and [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org).



The **New Jersey Historical Commission** has sponsored the development of a series of 90-second videos, “It

Happened Here in New Jersey,” highlighting innovation, diversity and liberty in the history of New Jersey, to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of New Jersey in 1664. The videos and lessons are available on the Commission’s website at <http://nj.gov/state/historical/>, and the NJ350 website at <http://officialnj350.com/>.

Want to join in **the NJ350th Anniversary Celebration** before 2014 comes to a close? The last two **NJ350 Pop-Up Stores** with New Jersey mugs, “Jerseyopoly” board games, “Goodnight, Jersey” children’s book, and state-branded books about New Jersey’s history, food, politics, quirks and more will be in South Orange—Dec. 11-14, and Trenton—Dec. 26-31.



**Crossroads of the American Revolution** has a variety of education resources about the American Revolution in New Jersey, including field trips, trunk shows, information about battles and encampments and a timeline, at [www.revolutionarynj.org/learn](http://www.revolutionarynj.org/learn); as well as lectures, walks, exhibits, reenactments and games from Bergen County to Cape May at [www.revolutionarynj.org/events](http://www.revolutionarynj.org/events); and short stories about individuals who “lived, worked, struggled and fought in the American Revolution” at [www.revolutionarynj.org/meet-your-revolutionary-neighbors](http://www.revolutionarynj.org/meet-your-revolutionary-neighbors). Visit your “Revolutionary Neighbors” to get a first-hand perspective on the American Revolution in New Jersey.

Join the reenactments and other commemorations of the **Ten Crucial Days in 1777:**

**Dec. 13**—1 p.m.: Recreating the Battle of Trenton in a Miniature War game at Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, NJ (free). For more information go to <http://www.revolutionarynj.org/events/recreating-the-battle-of-trenton-in-a-miniatures-war-game-2/>

**Dec. 20**—2 p.m.: Lecture: The Christmas Night Crossing, Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, NJ (free). Go to <http://www.revolutionarynj.org/events/lecture-the-christmas-night-crossing/>

[Back to top](#)

**Dec. 25**—1 p.m.: Washington Crossing the Delaware reenactment, Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, NJ (free). For more information go to <http://www.revolutionarynj.org/events/washington-crossing-the-delaware-christmas-day-reenactment/>

**Dec. 26**—7 p.m.: Colonial Ball, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Trenton, NJ. For more information go to <http://www.revolutionarynj.org/events/colonial-ball/>

**Dec. 27**—10 a.m.-5 p.m.: NJ 350<sup>th</sup> Battle of Trenton Reenactment, Old Barracks, Trenton, NJ. For more information go to <http://www.barracks.org/CalendarofEvents.htm>

President: Bill Wingren, Montclair High School  
Vice-president: Joseph Orlak, Supervisor, Pascack Valley Regional High School District  
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Arlene Gardner, Executive Director and Editor

If you have information about an event, resources, professional development or other activities of interest to social studies educators, please send it by the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter to Arlene Gardner at [agardner@njcre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njcre.rutgers.edu). Information is included at the discretion of the editor.

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[Back to top](#)