

## LCE News- September 2006 Greetings!

The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCE) in its effort to broaden its outreach has expanded its communication to electronic newsletters. Through this medium, we will update you on LCE programming monthly so that either as a volunteer, teacher, student or supporter you have the opportunity to learn more about the LCE's work across Louisiana.

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### Open Doors to Federal Courts November 9th, Lawyer Volunteers needed



The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, under the leadership of U.S. Magistrate **Judge Roby**, will be hosting its "**Open Doors**" program on **November 9th, 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** in partnership with the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education.

The program is open to High School Seniors who attend schools in the 13 Parish area that make up the Eastern District. It provides an extended Civic learning opportunity to Louisiana Students in the area of Civics and Government.

This years program is entitled a **Fair and Impartial Judiciary Partners in Justice: An Independent Judiciary and a Fair-Minded Jury** where students will present a mock argument to a sitting federal judge in the Eastern District. The material for the students has been provided by the Administrative Office of Courts located in Washington D.C. and is derived from a recent U.S. Supreme Court Case to aid in increasing a students understanding of the process that judges undergo in deciding cases.

Due to space constraints, **15 schools** will be able to participate in the program so teachers should sign up their schools early. Lunch will be provided. **Volunteers lawyers** are needed to aid the students and teachers in their preparation and to aid the court on the day of the event to make sure that students get to their courtroom ontime. **Lawyer volunteers** may sign up online by clicking on the volunteer tab and completing the form indicating that they wish to help with the Open Doors to Federal Courts program. **Teachers** contact our Director at [maria@lalce.org](mailto:maria@lalce.org) or by telephone at (225) 214- 5570 Spaces fill up fast so sign up now!

[Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education](#)

### Report on the Status of Civic Education in Louisiana

The LCE retained Dr. Bill Miller with Quality Educational Support Services to conduct a study on the status of Civic Education in Louisiana. The results of the study were revealed during the organizations Board Retreat in mid September. The report was supported by funding received from the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools. Some of the highlights of the report show that

1. Louisiana does require that its students learn civics and government.
2. The LEAP 21 and the GEE 21 provide student achievement results related to learning standards established by the State, while the IOWA test provide student achievement results for comparison to a national reference

## LCE Board Retreat and New Initiatives

On September 25th, the LCE Board met and worked all day planning and improving its programs and services provided in the area of Civics. New initiatives were discussed including its signature student award The Citizenship in Action (CIA) award which will be awarded to a Louisiana Student who best demonstrates citizenship in action.



The LCE's new web based enrichment game designed by a Louisiana College student, Clarence Davis, Jr. under contract with the LCE was launched. It is entitled "Who wants to be a Million Dollar Citizen" and is fashioned after the TV show game "Who wants to be a millionaire". This game utilizes the questions given on the naturalization test for immigrants who want to become U.S. Citizens and tests the players knowledge in the area of Civics.

The game may soon be available on CDrom and is a great tool for reenforcing student knowledge content in Civics and Citizenship, which is a required course for Louisiana Students to graduate from schools here in the state. Look for the apple logo across the state as LCE launches its new awareness program.

## LCE to Launch Y-Vote Initiative



In partnership with the Louisiana Secretary of State, the LCE is in the process of developing a law related initiative entitled Y-Vote. In the program, students will have the opportunity to learn about the importance of voting and how voting can impact their quality of life.

They will have the opportunity to utilize actual voting booths during their student council elections and students will serve as actual poll watchers. Students who participate will also be able to

compete to participate in the leadership academy which takes place at the State Capitol in the spring where they could learn about the process of laws and voting on them after debate as mock legislators. Finally, a long range goal of the program is to bring the process of e-voting to Louisiana students where they will have the opportunity to electronically vote for candidates in their parishes after they have research their platform, background and credentials. Lawyer volunteers will be needed for the program so if you are interested, please click on the volunteers tab on our web site.

## Donate to LCE on-line



The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic education can now accept your donations online. Just go to the Donate tab **on our website** and click on the Donate Now

Button.

Join us and become a member of our honorable mention list. This list is also online, just click on the hyperlink on the donate now tab.

Help make a difference by helping LCE teach through its many programs, Louisiana students what it means to be a citizen both in their obligations to society and their rights as a citizen.

norm.

3. LEAP 21 and GEE 21 statewide average student scores for Spring 2005 on constructed response items were between 39% and 59% correct for grades 4, 8, and high school.

4. Achievement differences exist on the LEAP 21 and GEE 21 and the Iowa Tests among racial groups as well as between regular education and other student classifications.

4. Although co-curricular civic education activities are popular and highly-regarded, their direct contribution to student achievement results is not clearly established.

These are just a few of the results detailed in the extensive report prepared by Dr. Miller. To obtain a copy of the report you may request it for a fee from our Director, Maria Yiannopoulos at [Maria@lalce.org](mailto:Maria@lalce.org)

## RESOURCES IN LAW AND CIVIC EDUCATION

[Constitutional  
Rights Foundation](#)

