



## 2008 Recipients

- **Civics in After-School** will use its award of \$8,000 to train Lincoln County 4-H after-school staff and volunteers to implement a project that will engage 400 after-school K-5 youth in civics and service-learning activities. Youth will increase knowledge, skills and attitudes corresponding to five civic engagement competencies: character, knowledge of government, community based service-learning, public policy, and global issues. Government and civic leaders will teach youth about community issues and how these issues are influenced by public policy. Participation in the program will culminate with a student-identified and implemented service project.
- **East Wake Television**, a governmental and educational community access station, will use an award of \$8,050 to teach 20 students the process of broadcasting local government content. During a 40 week school year internship and a 10 week summer internship, students will attend government meetings, interact with local officials, and capture footage of significant government business that will be broadcast to their community. Students will also plan, script, shoot, and edit public service announcements for three local governments and twelve local schools. This project will integrate learning about local government, public service, the media, and technology.
- High school students participating in the **Haliwa-Saponi Youth Leadership Education Project** will learn leadership and civic skills through monthly interactive sessions focused on topics such as Robert's Rules of Order; how to facilitate/participate in a governmental meeting; tribal by-laws, roles, and responsibilities; NC's local and state government; and conflict resolution. Students will also discuss topics affecting their peers, such as drugs and alcohol, dropping out of school, and tobacco use. Awarded \$8,250, the Leadership Education Project's goals are for youth to become engaged with their community, interact with their local government, vote in tribal elections, participate in a state youth conference, serve as role models for the younger generation, and recruit other young adults to join the project and become civically involved.
- Onslow County Schools will use an award of \$10,000 to transform one of its after-school programs into a bustling community and market place through the **Micro-Society Program**. Students will work to create a micro society fully equipped with a government and economy, where students assume various community roles to operate a legislature, judicial system, governmental and social service agencies, and a variety of profit-oriented businesses. Participants will move from passive learners to active participants as they make rules that govern behavior, work to maintain order, and solve various community problems that arise in their society.
- **Jeans for Justice**, a project lead by the Catawba County's Rape Crisis Center, received an award of \$4,000 to empower victims of sexual violence to speak out against the injustices they and other victims have encountered as they participate in a summer retreat, plan and participate in advocacy and outreach activities, and host community awareness events. Participants will explore the judicial system, interact with local and state officials as they campaign for a more fair and aware judicial system, and reach out to lawmakers, public officials, and the community to spread awareness of crime and injustice. Through Jeans for Justice, participants will learn healthy ways to heal while speaking out, increase personal and community awareness, learn about legal and governmental systems, and effectively represent their interests to elected officials.
- Awarded \$7,500, El Pueblo's **Latino Youth Fellowship Program** will foster leadership, advocacy, civic participation, and engagement of Latino youth at local, state and national levels. Through the project, participants will increase their civic knowledge through educational sessions and mentoring opportunities focused on state and local government; learn advocacy skills, such as using the press as a civic advocacy outlet; conduct peer-to-peer trainings on civics, current events and community action; and assist with organizing and supporting different components of El Pueblo's advocacy efforts, such as the Latino Issues Forum and La Fiesta del Pueblo.

- Designed to target at-risk youth ages 11-17 who have committed first time minor misdemeanors, the Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina's **Teen Court** works to interrupt delinquency formation before it becomes habitual. Offenders face a courtroom of their peers serving as the attorneys, bailiffs, clerks, and jury, with a district court judge or local attorney presiding. With an award of \$9,000, Teen Court will improve civic education for both youth offenders and youth volunteers as they participate in this judicial process. Teen Court also builds positive relationships by enabling youth, local government officials, local professionals, and other community members to work together and take proactive ownership of their community.
- The **YMCA NC Youth & Government Program** improves civic education and engagement by providing high school students a hands-on approach to learning about government and the legislative process. After participating in local interactive sessions on topics such as parliamentary procedure, public speaking, lobbying techniques, and media reporting, 20 low-income youth will receive registration fee assistance to attend the YMCA NC Youth Legislature in Raleigh to apply their learned skills. The project was awarded \$6,000.
- **Youth Speak**, a program of the Center for Dialogue, received \$2,600 to encourage teens in Transylvania county to address issues they care about by hosting "study circles"—groups of 8-12 teenagers who will discuss social issues in a democratic and collaborative way. Study circles, which are led by student facilitators, serve as an effective way for youth to promote community building and problem solving. Through this process, youth learn communication skills and become more active in school, community, and government. After participating in community dialogues, youth will have the opportunity to turn their ideas into action through a student-led community initiative. Selected students will travel to Raleigh to meet with government representatives to discuss local issues identified. Youth Speak 2008 sessions and topics will largely be organized with the input of two teen interns.
- Students United for a Responsible Global Environment received \$6,600 for implementing the **NC Youth Climate Advocacy Day Project**. This project will engage 100 middle and high school students as they complete a series of trainings on citizenship skills and climate change that will culminate at a "Youth Climate Advocacy Day" at the North Carolina General Assembly. This leadership program will use technology, art, and peer-to-peer learning to connect youth of diverse backgrounds to the state policy-making process. Participants will develop a clear understanding of how citizens can influence public policy, as well as develop skills in event planning, media outreach, public speaking, advocacy, and civic participation as they advocate for state representatives to support responsible environmental legislation.