

Small Grant Program Recipient Profiles 2004 Recipients

Civic Spirit

Cumberland County Schools was awarded \$5,000 to incorporate the *Foundations of Democracy* curriculum in the third-fifth grades. The program will reach over 6,000 students and provide teachers with intensive training on how to integrate an interactive civics curriculum into classroom activities. The curriculum fosters direct application of civics lessons and allows students and teachers to view their community as a civics learning lab; helps teachers learn more effective ways of teaching civics by hosting training sessions featuring civic education experts; and encourages students to value democracy and to exercise both their rights and responsibilities of citizenship. For additional information, call 910.678.2426.

Community Input Counts

The Health Adventure, in collaboration with **Kids Voting/Buncombe County**, was awarded \$7,500 to educate teachers on the interrelationship of science and civics, as well as increase the civic literacy of as many as 95,000 museum visitors per year. The program provides a community-input kiosk to gauge and increase knowledge of civic issues by exploring connections between civics and science. The model will be disseminated to other Kids Voting locations and science museums across North Carolina and beyond. For additional information, call 828.254.6373 x313.

Engaging Young Vietnamese-Americans in Community Services

Boat People S.O.S, Inc. was awarded \$5,000 to teach ten Vietnamese-American youth how to plan and organize events, conduct surveys, and learn about the application and decision-making process for Community Service Block Grants and Community Development Block Grant programs. Participants will work closely with local colleges and nonprofit organizations in Wake County to document challenges and meet prioritized needs of the Vietnamese-American community. For additional information, call 919.876.8448.

Examining Moral Issues and Civic Responsibilities in Local Government

University of North Carolina – Asheville was awarded \$7,000 to help students and future teachers explore the responsibilities associated with holding office through the study of local government. More than 80 fourth-grade and eighth-grade students will do the following: define moral courage and civic responsibility; learn interviewing skills; study city council and county commissioner forms of government; interview and observe city and county government officials; share findings with other students and educators; and host a public forum on civic education, inviting public officials to participate. For additional information, call 828.251.6959.

Hertford County Then & Now

Hertford County Middle School was awarded \$5,000 to educate eighth-grade students about the functions of Hertford County government and to nurture their civic skills. Nearly 45 students will participate by shadowing directors of county departments, holding mock meetings, and making recommendations to county commissioners in areas of concern identified by students. There will also be an extensive research project involving the middle school media center, county government, public libraries, and a field trip to the state archives in Raleigh. For additional information, call 252.358.1761.

Implementation of Civic Action Plan

The Project 540° Leadership Team at Ashe County High School was awarded \$2,700 to implement a student-developed *Civic Action Plan* generated during the previous school year through the 540° process. The project includes recommendations on cultivating civic participation among nearly 1,000 youth through collaborative activities, community revitalization, and community service. This grant will support funding for the arts and community service, as well as student life issues. In 2002-03, the school participated in Project 540°, a program sponsored by the Civic Education Consortium in 20 high schools across the state. For additional information, call 336.246.2400.

Kids Voting 2004 - Increasing Civic Engagement

Kids Voting affiliates in Guilford, Mecklenburg, and Wake Counties were awarded \$6,000 to provide 10,000 K-12 classrooms in their counties with CD-ROMs containing complete sets of Kids Voting information. These CDs include age-specific *Civics Alive* core activities that teach students about decision making, the progression of voting rights, gathering information to make informed decisions, election procedures, and government. The project incorporates supplementary activities, including *Destination Democracy's* service-learning lessons for high school and other service-learning lessons for elementary and middle schools. The CDs will help make civics lessons more accessible and effective in the classroom. For additional information, call 704.343.6999.

Latino Leadership for Young Women

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Hendersonville Branch was awarded \$3,800 for a weekly program involving Latino girls from eighth grade through high school. Custom designed for Latino culture, the program encourages girls to graduate from high school, take the SAT, complete a college degree, vote, and engage in community activities. The aim of the project is to build leadership skills that will help the participants accomplish their educational goals and become active citizens. This five-year pilot incorporates culturally sensitive facilitators and collaborators, including the YMCA, Girl Scouts, and Blue Ridge Community College. For additional information, call 828.697.9628.

Link 2 Learn

Wade Edwards Foundation was awarded \$5,000 to support an intergenerational technology training program that encourages 50 young people to develop a learning partnership with senior citizens in Wake County. The main goals are to develop computer skills among students and low-income retirement home residents and to build community through these newly formed relationships. The youth and senior participants will also consider public policy questions, including education, social security, technology, and residential options for seniors. The project creates new ways for older adults to stay connected and appreciate the perspective of a younger generation, while giving each senior citizen a personal technology consultant. For additional information, call 919.856.9233.

Youth Civics Awareness Project (Y-CAP)

The Hispanic/Latino Center, Inc. was awarded \$8,000 to help implement a program based on the *Citizen Role Map*, a national curriculum developed by the initiative *Equipped for the Future*. Twenty-five Hispanic/Latino youth in Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, and Robeson counties will participate in the program to increase economic and social empowerment. The curriculum highlights four broad study areas that encourage youth to become and stay informed; to form and express opinions and ideas; to take action to strengthen communities; and to work together effectively. For additional information, call 910.321.1492.

Youth Leadership Development Conference

N.C. State Youth Council and the **N.C. Youth Advocacy & Involvement Office** were awarded \$5,000 to defray the cost for 60 need-based students to attend the Youth Legislative Assembly (YLA) conference and training programs. The YLA is a mock General Assembly that enables 250 high school students to gain a better understanding and knowledge of local, state, and national government and builds their confidence and ability to debate current issues. Any student in good standing at a public, private, charter, or home school in North Carolina is eligible to participate in YLA. For additional information, call 919.733.9296.