

Small Grant Program Recipient Profiles 2006 Recipients

Southwest Civic Education Program

The Alliance for Children and Youth, Inc. was awarded \$2,600 to add supplemental curriculum to two eighth grade social studies blocks at **Southwest Middle School** in Gaston County. **Communities in Schools** will lead the project in cooperation with several community organizations and local government. Students will participate in service-learning opportunities, use the 4-H curricula *Citizenship: Public Adventures*, job shadow local officials, and visit and participate in local government and teen court proceedings.

Leadership East Wake

The Boys and Girls Club of Wake County will bring together five groups of youth leaders who will meet after school with adult advisors to experience the 4-H curricula, *Citizenship: Public Adventures*. A grant of \$6,650 will allow the youth to put their skills in to action as they identify a neighborhood problem and create an action plan to address it. Each group of youth leaders will raise \$100 in additional funds and receive a matching mini-grant that they can use for their community project. This award will re-establish a successful collaborative program that was discontinued two years ago due to lack of funding.

Passionate Citizens: A Youth Noise Network Documentary Project

The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University in Durham received \$8,207 to help young people connect to Durham's active civic culture. This process will engage teens in conversation, direct observation, interviewing, and image making as well as inspire them to create products that reflect their learning. Teens will produce a series of audio documentaries, a body of photographs, a Web presence, a CD-ROM that could be distributed to high-school history and civics classrooms, and a traveling exhibit. The audio documentaries will be pitched to local radio stations and a national Web-based distribution system. A community educational forum for youth and adults will serve as the premier for their work.

Summer Civic Leadership Institute

Granville County Government will sponsor the Summer Civic Leadership Institute to expose a diverse group of young people to local government. An award of \$5,000 will help give students an introduction to a wide range of local government services through five days of hands-on experiences. Examples of activities include serving meals at a congregate meal site, evaluating soil types for septic systems, receiving basic first aide training, touring the 9-1-1 Center, taking water samples, and doing a community service project. Group leaders will include social studies teachers, who will also benefit from the experience.

We Respect All People (WRAP)

The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council of Granville County, representing three middle and four high schools, seeks to enhance school climate by increasing students' mutual respect for one another. Students identified discipline and bullying as top concerns in their Safe Schools Survey and a Student, Parent, Staff Survey and created WRAP – a campaign for change – as a response to these concerns. WRAP includes leadership development, campaign marketing, policy improvement, partnerships, civic responsibility, and mentoring of older students to younger ones. Students developed the program over the last year, and a \$7,500 grant will help lead WRAP in the future.

Operation CLEAR (Civic Leadership, Education, And Responsibility)

Greene Lamp, Inc. of Carteret, Craven, Greene, Jones, Onslow, and Pamlico Counties received \$8,000 for Operation CLEAR. Youth enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act Out-Of-School Youth Program will participate in Operation CLEAR. The program includes 26 hours of classroom (or-self-study) instruction plus a variety of activities, such as teen court, voter registration, mock elections, town and city council meetings, verbal and written debate, quiz bowl, advocacy skills, and job shadowing of local officials. Resources include the Newspapers in Education, numerous local organizations, and the National Standards for Civics and Government.

PhotoVoice

Youth First, a program for at-risk teens in the **Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department**, was awarded a grant for \$5,093. The grant will allow PhotoVoice to recruit participants who may not currently think of themselves as community advocates. The project combines learning photography with making a statement about a community issue. Teens will research local issues of concern to them, photograph the issue's strengths and weaknesses, and then voice their concerns about the issue. At a final reception, the participants will display their work. They will also make a presentation at City Council. The project combines civic education, art, and social skills to encourage teens to voice their concerns to government leaders and others.

State Leadership Conference

Each year, the **North Carolina State Youth Council** conducts the **Youth Legislative Assembly (YLA)**. YLA is a mock General Assembly that allows high-school students to learn about local, state, and federal government through simulation activities and to develop their ability to debate current issues. The award of \$3,500 will provide scholarships for lower-income students to participate in YLA.

Footprints from the Past, Blueprints for the Future

A grant of \$7,950 will involve every Civics and Economics student at Onslow County's **Northside High School** in an innovative, experience-based instructional program. The grant will support a teacher-led initiative to revise their teaching style and to incorporate the Six Promising Approaches from Carnegie's Civic Mission of Schools report into their instruction. Students will benefit from multi-media activities, realistic simulations, mock trials, interactive teaching, community issues, debates, the shared experiences of public officials, and the inclusion of character education. Ultimately, the teachers at Northside High School plan to expand this curriculum and to use it annually.

Youth Voices and Vision

The **Young Women of Promise Inc.** of Cabarrus County was awarded \$5,500 to "develop a pipeline of youth leadership skills with middle school students so they are positioned to take on leadership and civic action roles in high school and beyond." Young Women of Promise is partnering with **Kids Voting/Cabarrus** to prepare a diverse group of girls for leadership through lessons and activities on life skills, leadership, time management, civic engagement, public speaking, community action, and writing. Framework for the curricula will be Kid's Voting's *Destination Democracy* and The Constitutional Rights Foundation's *Active Citizenship Today*. Students will research a problem, choose a project, evaluate public policy, and take action.