

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

Center for Civic Education ■ 1743 Connecticut Ave., NW ■ Washington, D.C. 20009 ■ 202-861-8800

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DENVER EAST STUDENTS WIN NATIONWIDE CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS

Washington, D.C. — Months of study and hard-won victories at the congressional district and state levels ended this week for about 1,200 high school students representing 50 states and the District of Columbia in the national finals of **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution**, a competition on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. After three days of simulated congressional hearings, during which students were required to apply constitutional principles and historical facts to contemporary situations, the class from Denver East emerged as the national champion, with Amador Valley High School, Pleasanton, California and Grant High School, Portland, Oregon taking second and third place, respectively.

The announcement of the top three classes—as well as 18 winners in other categories—was made at the awards banquet Monday evening before an audience of 1,500 students, teachers, coordinators, judges and other program participants. The winning class from Denver East was presented with an engraved plaque of the Constitution and each student was awarded a gold medallion. Second- and third-place classes were presented with plaques of the Bill of Rights and students were awarded silver and bronze medals. The fourth- through 10th-place classes received engraved plaques.

Awards were also presented to the class with the highest non-finalist score in each of the six units of the text and each of five geographic regions in the country. Certificates of appreciation were presented to each of the teachers of the 51 classes for their accomplishments in engaging their students in the study of the Constitution.

[A LIST OF THE TWENTY-ONE AWARD WINNERS IS ATTACHED.]

The first rounds of the competition took place on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and April 29. Today, the top 10 teams met on Capitol Hill. Students demonstrated their knowledge of the Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists, and government leaders. The panel of judges tested the expertise of the classroom teams on the six units of the *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* text: What Are the Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System?; How Did the Framers Create the Constitution?; How Did the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shape American Institutions and Practices?; How Have the Protections of the Bill of Rights Been Developed and Expanded?; What Rights Does the Bill of Rights Protect?; and What Are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution features an intensive curriculum that provides students with comprehensive instruction on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. The program is designed to promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our constitutional democracy. When combined with the companion noncompetitive elementary and middle school programs, more than 28 million students have participated in the program during the past 20 years. Developed and administered by the Los Angeles-based Center for Civic Education, the program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by Congress.

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NATIONAL WINNER: East High School, of Denver, Colorado

SECOND PLACE: Amador Valley High School, of Pleasanton, California

THIRD PLACE: Grant High School, of Portland, Oregon

HONORABLE MENTION (Fourth Place)

(OTHER TOP TEN FINALISTS TEAM – ALPHABETICALLY BY STATE)

Dobson High School, of Mesa, Arizona

Trumbull High School, of Trumbull, Connecticut

Hamilton Southeastern High School, of Fishers, Indiana

East Grand Rapids High School, of Grand Rapids, Michigan

East Brunswick High School, of East Brunswick, New Jersey

Northwest Guilford High School, of Greensboro, North Carolina

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, Richmond, Virginia

WINNERS OF UNIT AWARDS

(BEST NON-FINALIST TEAM FOR EXPERTISE IN EACH UNIT OF COMPETITION)

UNIT 1 (*Foundations of Democracy*): Highlands High School, Ft. Thomas, KY

UNIT 2 (*Creation of the Constitution*): Edward R. Murrow High School, Brooklyn, NY

UNIT 3 (*Constitution Shapes Institutions*): Saint Thomas Aquinas High School, Overland Park, KS

UNIT 4 (*Extension of Bill of Rights*): Grace King High School, Metairie, LA

UNIT 5 (*Protection of Rights*): Maine Township High School South, Park Ridge, IL

UNIT 6 (Role Of Citizen): Lamar Academy, McAllen, TX

WINNERS OF REGIONAL AWARDS

(BEST NON-FINALIST TEAM FROM EACH REGION)

Western States: West Anchorage High School, Anchorage, AK

Mountain/Plain States: Highland High School, Albuquerque, NM

Central States: Wesminster Christian Academy, St. Louis, MO

Southeastern States: Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills, AL

Northeastern States: Essex High School, Essex Junction, VT