

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PLACE FIRST IN NATIONWIDE
CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS**

WASHINGTON — After three days of simulated congressional hearings that tested their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, Lincoln High School students from Portland, Oregon, captured first place at the 27th Annual We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals.

Classes representing 42 states and the District of Columbia came to the nation's capital to participate in the academic competition. Tim Swinehart coaches the Lincoln High School class.

The competition results were announced at the awards ceremony Monday evening on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, before an audience of more than 2,000 students, teachers, coordinators, judges, parents and other program participants.

During the competition, students demonstrated their knowledge of the Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of state supreme court judges, constitutional scholars, lawyers, public officials and We the People alumni. The first rounds of the hearings took place on Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27. Today, the top-10 schools competed in congressional hearing rooms on Capitol Hill.

The panel of judges tested the expertise of the classes on the six units of the *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* textbook: What Are the Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System? How Did the Framers Create the Constitution? How Has the Constitution Been Changed to Further the Ideals Contained in the Declaration of Independence? How Have the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shaped American Institutions and Practices? What Rights Does the Bill of Rights Protect? and What Challenges Might Face American Constitutional Democracy in the Twenty-first Century?

Since its inception in 1987 as part of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program has reached more than 30 million students and 75,000 educators in every congressional district in the United States.

We the People promotes knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and American government through interactive strategies that make teaching and learning exciting for both students and teachers.

More information on the We the People program is available at <http://civiced.org/programs/wtp>.

NATIONAL WINNER: Lincoln High School, Portland, Oregon

SECOND PLACE: Amador Valley High School, Pleasanton, California

THIRD PLACE: Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies, Richmond, Virginia

FOURTH PLACE: Fishers High School, Fishers, Indiana

FIFTH PLACE: Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills, Alabama

SIXTH PLACE: East Grand Rapids High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan

SEVENTH PLACE: Grandview High School, Aurora, Colorado

EIGHTH PLACE: Maine South High School, Park Ridge, Illinois

NINTH PLACE: Corona del Sol High School, Tempe, Arizona

TENTH PLACE: Highland High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

WINNERS OF UNIT AWARDS

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

UNIT 1 (The Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System):
Incline High School, Incline Village, Nevada

UNIT 2 (How the Framers Created the Constitution):
Wauwatosa West High School, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

UNIT 3 (How Changes in the Constitution Have Furthered the Ideas in the Declaration of Independence):
East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick, New Jersey

UNIT 4 (How the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shaped American Institutions and Practices)
Blackfoot High School, Blackfoot, Idaho

UNIT 5 (The Rights That the Bill of Rights Protects):
Marcos de Niza High School, Tempe, Arizona

UNIT 6 (Twenty-first Century Challenges to American Constitutional Democracy):
Sky View High School, Smithfield, Utah

**WINNERS OF REGIONAL AWARDS
(BEST NON-FINALIST TEAM FROM EACH REGION)**

Western States: Tahoma Senior High School, Covington, Washington

Mountain/Plains States: Lincoln East High School, Lincoln, Nebraska

Central States: Westminster Christian Academy, St. Louis, Missouri

Southeastern States: Northwest Guilford High School, Greensboro, North Carolina

Northeastern States: Marshwood High School, South Berwick, Maine

About the Center for Civic Education

The *Center for Civic Education* (www.civiced.org) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization dedicated to fostering the development of informed, responsible participation in civic life by citizens committed to values and principles fundamental to American constitutional democracy. The Center's programs are implemented with the assistance of a network of public- and private-sector organizations and educational leaders in every state and congressional district in the country and in more than eighty other countries, many of which are emerging and advanced democracies.

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