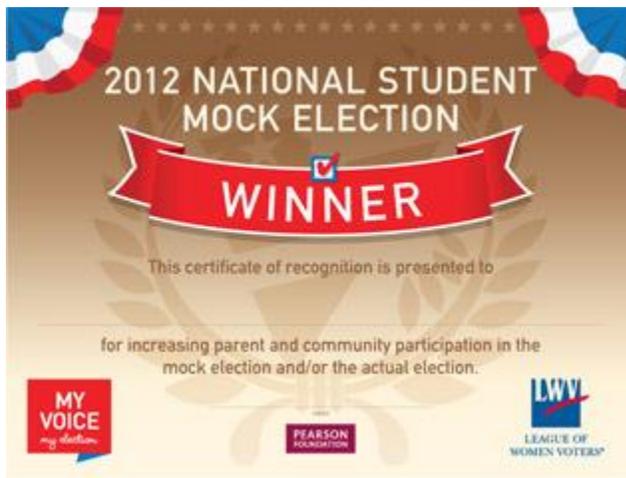


The 2012 National Student Mock Election Awards



The 2012 National Student Mock Election Awards have been announced. Leading educational organizations, in conjunction with the My Voice National Student Mock Election, sponsored awards for outstanding student voter educational projects. The awards recognize the students, teachers, administrators and many others that helped advance civic engagement across the nation.

Congratulations to all the award-winning projects!



Award Categories
Statewide Projects

Winner:

Oregon Student Mock Election

Highlight: Through targeted outreach efforts to rural areas with the lowest voting turnouts and the highest poverty rates, the 2012 Oregon Student Mock Election achieved a 280% increase in participation from 2010. The League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund works with hundreds of teachers, thousands of students, and many volunteers to bring the Oregon Student Mock Election to life every election year.

Honorable Mention:

Puerto Rico Mock Election

Highlight: With the support of top elected officials and candidates and over 12,000 volunteer teachers, students and parents, more than 400,000 students participated in the 2012 Puerto Rico Mock Election. The 14th Puerto Rico Mock Election coordinated by the Instituto de Formacion Democratica Inc., these continuous efforts build strong civic engagement and community enrichment.

“The League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund works with hundreds of teachers, thousands of students, and many volunteers to bring the Oregon Student Mock Election to life every election year. Thank you for honoring the work of everyone involved in our program by giving us this award. We look forward to inspiring many more students to embrace democracy!”

—*Rebecca Smith, Executive Administrator, League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund*



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

School District Projects

The American Association of School Administrators Award for outstanding leadership in voter education

Winner:

Fort Bend ISD, Sugar Land, Texas

Highlight: In a school district of 68,000+ students, Fort Bend ISD created a district wide voting project serving 70 campuses. The theme of “The Power of One” aimed to increase students understanding of how one vote matters. The project succeeded in surpassing national voter turnout rates with their student vote.

Honorable Mention:

Holbrook Public Schools, Holbrook, Massachusetts

Highlight: With a goal of engaging the student body in the election and translating the excitement to their families, the entire South Elementary School participated in the 2012 National Student Mock Election. The value of civic duty was demonstrated, as most students accompanied their parents to the polls.

“Teaching civic responsibility is an important part of our curriculum, and we are honored to receive the American Association of School Administrators’ award for our District’s participation in the 2012 National Student Mock Election. The teachers and students of Fort Bend ISD are pleased that their hard work in sharing the importance of voting is being nationally recognized. Due to this dynamic program, we believe our students are better equipped to continue their civic responsibility both within the educational process and beyond.”

—Pete Yackus, Elementary Social Studies Coordinator, Fort Bend Independent School District, Sugar Land, Texas

“It is truly an honor to be selected as a recipient of the 2012 National Student Mock Election Awards. Preparing our students to accept the responsibilities of their civic duties, encouraging them to become active participants in the democratic process, and recognizing that our country is truly made great by we the people is of the utmost importance in our children’s education. The opportunity to formulate opinions and cast a vote has been an invaluable lesson in democracy and social responsibility. Thank you for providing the opportunity.”

—Mary Clougher, Civics Advisor South School, Holbrook Public Schools, Holbrook, Massachusetts



School Projects The National Association of Secondary School Principals Award for outstanding contributions to teaching democracy

Winner:

Kwajalein Junior/Senior High School, Armed Forces Pacific, Marshall Islands

Highlight: Via a mock political rally and several focused activities and channels, the project succeeded in enhancing students’ abilities to seek out credible and reliable information regarding the candidates and the issues. Daily announcements, lessons and visual election materials further buoyed the 98% voter turnout.

Honorable Mention:

Jefferson Middle School, Champaign, Illinois

Highlight: With a focus on media literacy, students examined political news and advertising and, as a result, learned how civic responsibility requires solid research and questioning skills. Lessons reinforced that every citizen has a voice and encouraged family conversations.

“That muffled sound you hear is the celebration of the small student body and staff of Kwajalein Junior/Senior High School from our small atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. We were thrilled to be a part of the National Student Mock Election, but to be chosen as one of the award recipients is icing on the cake. We cannot thank you enough for this incredible honor.”

—Ricardo Fullerton, Secondary Social Studies Teacher, Kwajalein Junior/Senior High School, Kwajalein Schools, United States Army Kwajalein Atoll/Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

“Participating in the National Student Mock Election is an engaging and exciting way for students to understand that voting is a right to be taken very seriously. I always want to encourage critical thought and investigation in my classroom, which the elections provide a perfect platform. It is an honor for my work to be recognized by an association I respect.”

—Christine Adrian, 8th Grade Social Studies Building Leader, Jefferson Middle School, Unit 4 Community School District, Champaign, Illinois



Classroom Projects The League of Women Voters Award for increasing parent and community participation in the Mock Election and/or actual election

Winner:

East Elementary – 5th Grade, Greenville, Pennsylvania

Highlight: As a class, the students formed a government called the Powerful Penguins; wrote a pledge and constitution; held a primary; participated in

debates; created campaign promotions; visited an election site and, finally, held their own election. The project heightened understanding of democracy and the electoral process both in the classroom and at home by simulating the national election and emphasizing the importance of taking part in a community and its government.

“I am humbled and honored to be selected as a recipient of the 2012 National Student Mock Election Awards. My hope is that teaching my students the electoral process through a hands-on simulated approach will motivate them to become responsible citizens, involved in the political process. We are all given the gift of a voice in our government, and it is important to use it.”

—Janice Abernethy, 5th Grade Teacher and leader of the Powerful Penguins, East Elementary, Greenville Area School District, Greenville, Pennsylvania



Student-Led Projects The National Association of Student Councils/Ruth Hollander Award for outstanding contributions to democratic participation

Winner:

Chapel Hill Middle School Mock Election, Tyler, Texas

Highlight: With a goal to educate students and prepare them for future elections, this project called upon students to discuss the candidates and the issues during social studies class. Students developed a voter registration system in preparation for Election Day and achieved an extraordinary voter turnout.

“I am so joyful that we earned this privilege to take part in this award. We realize that this is a great opportunity for our school to be recognized. I would like to thank all of the teachers and staff of Chapel Hill Middle School that made this possible.”

—Chase Austin Miller, 8th Grade, Chapel Hill I.S.D., Chapel Hill Middle School, Tyler, Texas

