

Call for Classes to Participate in the Project Citizen Showcase To be held May 2023



Project Citizen Middle and High School Showcase for Academic Year 2022-23

The Project Citizen Middle and High School Showcase returns at the end of May or early June 2023 (TBD). This year we are extending an invitation to all of our Middle and High School teachers to consider joining us for the opportunity to have their students show off their civics projects. There have been many memorable projects presented over the years and we are looking forward to this year's Showcase.

At the Showcase, students would be able to present their portfolios to the public. A portfolio (physical or electronic) is a way for students to organize and display their research for their chosen issue. In addition, students in a simulated public hearing explain their chosen public policy by describing the problem, alternative solutions, their solution, and action plan. The presentation is often the most memorable and empowering part of a student's Project Citizen experience.

If you, or any teacher you know, are interested in learning more about the Middle or High School Project Citizen program and the Showcase, please contact Ellen Barber-Morse at ellen.barber.morse@masscivics.org or Roger Desrosiers at roger.desrosiers@masscivics.org



*Citizen Lyceum*

Middlesex County House of Correction Hosted a Successful Program on Project Citizen for Women; Now Being Expanded to the General Population

This past spring, **Ed O'Connell** kicked off the second iteration of his civics program for incarcerated persons, using the Project Citizen curriculum in a unique setting with terrific results. This session of the program has been held in the new Women's Pre-Release Center created by Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian at the Billerica House of Correction, with twelve women participating in an extended five month program run, with classes meeting weekly.

The women's chosen project is "Plea Bargain Reform: Ending the Trial Penalty in Massachusetts". Their formal presentation to **Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan**, along with members of the Massachusetts Legislature's Judiciary Committee, is scheduled for the first week in October.

Ed also began a third session of the Project Citizen program for incarcerated persons in mid-September, this time among the general population in the Middlesex County Jail. Watch for more updates as this remarkable first-in-the-nation program continues to unfold.

You may recall that a year ago we featured Ed's use of Project Citizen with juveniles at the Billerica House of Correction. It is a testimony to him, Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, and others that they recognize how this opportunity has engaged the prison population to involve themselves in public policy and becoming more informed about their role as citizens. Kudos to everyone!

REVIVAL OF CITIZEN LYCEUM

It is our hope that this year we will revive our **Citizen Lyceum**, our adult learning program. As a result of the pandemic, we have been unable to meet with a group of people who would enjoy hearing about the inner workings of our government, its principles, values and institutions. We have done several meetings on broad topics like the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but also less broad, like the First Amendment and even specific topics like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and its aftermath.

Our purpose is to delve into the democratic and republican (note the small d and small r, not party affiliated) features of our government that our Founders and Framers were so concerned about. We are non partisan and non ideological. Our focus is to inform our audience about the foundations of our government and base our responses on what the Constitution and the Bill of Rights says through a historical and a contemporary lens.

If you are associated with libraries, historical sites, museums, and other localities that would appreciate educating an audience with an interest in being better informed about their government, please let us know. Without prejudice, we believe that with a better informed populace, our electorate will operate more civilly, in a more educated manner, and in a less than polarizing fashion.

When Benjamin Franklin was asked whether we had "a Republic or a Monarchy" at the end of the Constitutional Convention, he replied, "a republic, if we can keep it." He and his fellow Framers all believed that the only way we could "keep it" was with an informed citizenry. Unfortunately, we've done a poor job of doing this. If we can help, we would like to do what our Framers had hoped - to inform our citizens!



Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies

Non-Profit Educational Organization Supporting Social Studies Educators

MCSS Fall Two-Day Statewide Conference Returns! Oct. 23 and 24, 2022 at the Cape Codder Resort & Spa in Hyannis, MA

The MCSS Fall Conference returns this year with the theme of “Preparing Students to Hold the ‘Office of Citizen’”. The goal for this fall’s two-day statewide conference is to bring fellow educators together to explore the myriad ways we, as Social Studies teachers, are making connections between the curriculum and the community. The conference’s objective serves to highlight the creative and exciting methods teachers use to bring our discipline into the lives of students.

This year’s conference is sure to help teachers connect through the many presentations and opportunities during these 2 days.

All interested teachers should register with the MCSS through their information and registration page, including information on hotel stays here:

[MCSS Fall 2022 Registration](#)

Massachusetts and National Daughters of the American Revolution Awards Presented to Kelley Brown

Kelley Brown is a dedicated and respected teacher of history and civics at Easthampton High School. This year, Kelley was nominated for Outstanding Teacher of American History by the Betty Allen Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution from Northampton, MA. She was presented the award by the **Massachusetts State Daughters of the American Revolution** at a reception this past spring.

At that time, it was also announced that Kelley would be receiving the **Daughters of the American Revolution NATIONAL Outstanding Teacher of American History** at their National Convention in Washington DC on June 30th, 2022. It was such a great event that included Kelley’s award and speech that personifies her dedication to her students and to the profession of teaching.

Kelley Brown (second from the left) at the Massachusetts DAR Reception.



Check out Kelley Brown’s award and acceptance speech from the National DAR Convention. The video below will start at the introduction of Kelley and the award.

[DAR 131st Continental Congress - Education Awards Night Ceremony 6/30/22](#)

Alumni Network News

MACCE is committed to our mission, "To create generations of responsible, educated, and involved citizens by promoting civic learning and engagement." To that end, we are reaching out to former students of the We the People program and creating an Alumni Network. The goal is to reconnect with our alum and expand the impact of the We the People and Project Citizen programs.

In August, Roger met with alumni for a BBQ and discussion on the programs, its impact on their lives, and how to create a greater reach with We the People and Project Citizen.

One topic was on the success and challenges for new teachers in the WTP program. We wish to emphasize the following: **minimize competition and maximize the hearings**. We believe that the hearing process is ideal at giving students a great way to understand what they are learning and that it should be done early and often, not just as an end of course requirement. We will keep this as a core idea as we continue to promote our programs.

We would like to engage our alum more and several ideas were presented. Alumni could be involved in a Podcast series regarding the WTP Program and examine a variety of topics relevant to the WTP program from their own experience. We also invite all alum to follow us and **Like** our Facebook Page for information and events **@MassachusettsCenterforCivicEducation** or search for **MACCE**.

How can Alumni be involved and help MACCE's mission? We discussed a variety of ways alum can be involved directly in their own community. By getting to know the schools in your town, meet the teachers and administrators, and share your experience with We the People and Project Citizen.

There are so many more ideas that were discussed during our meeting. We ask that our alum, wherever you may be, to help by providing us with your suggestions and ideas on what we can do to broaden our program so that more students can benefit from the experiences that our alumni have loved.

Also, we would like to ask all alumni to reach out to us and let us know how you may be able to help us going forward. No effort to help is too small and is always welcomed. Click the link below to be sent to our Support Page at masscivics.org and complete the "Volunteer Inquiry Form" to connect with us.

Alumni Support

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please feel free to contact MACCE at roger.desrosiers@masscivics.org

Best,

Roger Desrosiers, President of Massachusetts Center of Civic Education and
Massachusetts State Coordinator for ***We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution***
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We the People



Citizen Lyceum



CALENDAR

October 3, 2022	MACCE/FSU graduate level course for professional development
October 23-24, 2022	MCSS Fall 2022 Conference at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa MCSS Fall 2022 Registration
Fall TBD, 2022	MACCE Workshop 1: How to Develop the Hearing Process in the Classroom - at TBD
November 18, 2022	MACCE Workshop 2: How Can We Preserve our Democracy? - at the Old South Meeting House, Boston
December 2-4, 2022	102nd NCSS Annual Conference in Philadelphia NCSS Conference Info
December 8, 2022	MACCE Workshop 3: How can you use WTP in an AP Government class? - at Auburn High School
January 28, 2023	We the People High School State Competition
March 6-10, 2023	MCLC - Civic Learning Week MCLC Events
Spring 2023, TBD	We the People Middle School State Showcase
Spring 2023, TBD	Project Citizen Middle and High School State Showcases

HOT FLASH - NEW CENTER ANNOUNCEMENT!!

The Center for Civic Education (CCE) on September 27, 2022 announced that the USDOE awarded a SEED grant called Civics Empowers All Students (CEAS) for three years "to increase the number of diverse and highly effective educators through our WTP program professional development model". Professional development and curricular programs in the upper elementary and middle grades (4 - 8) will be impacted by this grant. As MACCE learns more details of this new grant, we will contact all the appropriate parties about this opportunity for additional professional development. Stay tuned!!

MACCE/FSU Graduate Course

The Graduate Level course, *Understanding the Fundamental Principles, Values, and Institutions of American Government*, will again be offered this fall and spring by Framingham State University, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Center for Civic Education. This course is offered as either a 3 credit Graduate level course, or can be used for 45 Professional Development Hours. Class begins on October 3, 2022.

If you are interested in learning more about the course, please click on the button below.



NOW HIRING: Open Position with MACCE

Part-Time Technical and Marketing Associate

We are currently hiring for a part time, 10 hour per week with flexible time.

We are looking for someone to assist the organization with website maintenance, social media and email marketing, Newsletter publication, and technical duties.

Interest in civic education, a plus.

Desired Skills:

- General computer and application knowledge
- Familiar with Apple products
- Google Drive and products
- Facebook for Business
- MailChimp
- Wordpress

All interested candidates should email their resume and a cover letter to roger.desrosiers@masscivics.org

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the support of the organizations and individuals within our community and state to help us promote civic awareness in our schools. Your funds will help provide professional development resources, textbooks, learning opportunities and help us continue the work we do to promote civic education for all people.

