



Civic EDge

A Report from VA Civics on the Virginia We the People Program

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An Update from the Co-Executive Directors

It has been an enlightening year for Virginia Civics. We found enormous support for our programming last fall at the Virginia Council for the Social Studies conference in Williamsburg and at the Virginia Civic Summit in Jamestown. The Project Citizen program, new to VA Civics, is enjoying a renewal in the state, thanks to the program's adoption in Alexandria City, Henrico, and Loudoun County schools. And our organization is going through a strategic planning process to give us a solid footing as we enter the next chapter of leading civic education in Virginia.

Throughout this growth, VA Civics has been able to maintain, and strengthen, participation in the We the People program through the 2019-2020 We the People Training Cohort and the We the People regional and state competitions. Our current training cohort will wrap up its year with a one-day workshop at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in March, and we look forward to their continued participation in the program for years to come. Our Northern Virginia We the People Regionals were held at Patriot High School in Nokesville, VA, and our Central Virginia Regionals enjoyed another year of support from Randolph-Macon College. The regional competitions were made possible by a grant from Bank of America, while the State Finals were sponsored in part by Dominion Energy.



Students from Old Donation School prepare to testify at the Central Virginia We the People Regional Finals



Middle School State Champs: Rachel Carson Middle School



High School State Champs: Freeman High School Team Rehnquist



High School State 2nd Place: Maggie Walker Governor's School



High School State 3rd Place: Glen Allen High School Team Grant

Two High Schools Going to Nationals!

With scheduling conflicts preventing state-winner Douglas Freeman High School from attending National Finals, Virginia's 2nd place team Maggie Walker Governor's School will represent the state as the top class at the We the People National Finals. And with Virginia being awarded a wild card spot, Glen Allen High School will compete at the National Finals for the first time in history, after winning the central Virginia regional competition and coming in 3rd at the State Finals.

Giving Update

We would like to extend a big thank you to those who have so generously donated this year or participated in our first-ever silent auction at the We the People State Finals, where items from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, the Valentine, the Richmond Symphony, Monticello, Mount Vernon, Feast!, Gearhart's Chocolates, Iron Pipe Alewerks, and Barboursville Vineyards helped to raise over \$1,200 for Virginia Civics programming.

Bank of America sponsored our We the People regional competitions with a gift of \$10,000. Dominion Energy sponsored our We the People State Finals with a gift of \$15,000. We have also received a generous \$8,000 grant from Virginia Humanities for the next We the People Training Cohort, which supplements a \$15,000 gift from the Havens Foundation for teacher training.

Upcoming Events

VA Civics is proud to send two high school teams—Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School and Glen Allen High School—to the We the People National Finals, and one middle school team—Rachel Carson Middle School—to the We the People National Invitational. These teams fully rely on donations from supporters to make their participation in these national competitions possible. We hope you'll consider supporting these Virginia national competitors with a gift.

Learn more at vacivics.org/wtpnationals.

We the People Training Cohort One-Day Workshop

Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, Charlottesville, VA
Saturday, March 14

We the People Non-Competitive Showcase

T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, VA
Saturday, March 28

Virginia Civics Strategic Planning

Saturday–Sunday, April 18–19

Freeman High School Project Citizen Showcase

Freeman High School, Henrico, VA
Tuesday, April 21

We the People National Finals

National Conference Center, Leesburg, VA
Friday, April 24–Monday, April 27

We the People National Invitational

National Conference Center, Leesburg, VA
Friday, May 1–Monday, May 4

Virginia State Project Citizen Showcase

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Friday, May 22

We the People Summer Institute

George Washington’s Mount Vernon, Alexandria, VA
Monday, June 28–Thursday, July 2

Contact us at info@vacivics.org to donate to Virginia Civics in support of our amazing Virginia We the People teachers and students.