



CAMPAIGN FOR THE CIVIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES

The Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools is a long-term effort to renew and elevate civic learning in our nation's schools. The Campaign is funded by grants from Carnegie Corporation of New York, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Annenberg Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

A NEW HOME AND STAFF FOR THE CAMPAIGN: PLANS FOR SUMMER AND FALL 2008

A MESSAGE FROM MABEL MCKINNEY-BROWNING, CMS CAMPAIGN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

In October, I appointed a Futures Committee to spearhead a comprehensive review of the Campaign's work and to chart a plan for a sustainable future. We have now completed a critical milestone that I wanted to share with you. The Campaign's Executive Committee and the Council on Excellence in Government (CEG) reached agreement to relocate the Campaign to the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). We believe that this move provides a home organization that is an excellent fit for the Campaign's future. I am pleased to announce that the Campaign began formal operations at NCSS on June 1, 2008.

Our special thanks and appreciation go to the Council for Excellence in Government for supporting the Campaign in its nascent years. We look forward to the continuing presence of CEG as a member of our coalition. We also thank Susan Griffin, Executive Director of NCSS, for welcoming us and providing leadership and support to the Campaign as we craft next steps.

Patrick Phillips, Executive Director of the Campaign since 2006, has accepted the position of Superintendent of Schools in Maine School Administrative District #61. I know that you will join me in thanking Patrick for his exceptional work on behalf of the Campaign. We are especially grateful for his efforts in raising funds for our programs and operations, as well as his tireless work in spearheading the effort to raise awareness of civic learning throughout the country.

The Campaign's Executive Committee has appointed Ted McConnell as the new Executive Director. Since 1999, Ted has served as the Director of the Center for Civic Education's Campaign to Promote Civic Education, the state level effort to restore the civic mission of schools. He was co-coordinator of the four Congressional Conferences on Civic Education sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy. He is a founding member of the CMS Steering and Executive Committees. Ted can be reached at ted@ncss.org or at 301-588-1800, extension 123.

It is my view that every challenge also represents an opportunity. Now that the move to NCSS has been completed, the Campaign can turn its attention more fully to the work ahead. With generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Annenberg Foundation, I am very optimistic about the Campaign's future. With your continued support and active involvement, we are poised to enter a new and productive chapter in our coalition's shared work.

The Honorable Lee Hamilton joins National Advisory Committee as Co-Chair

We are honored to announce that the Honorable Lee Hamilton has agreed to join former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and former Colorado Governor Roy Romer as a Co-Chair of the Campaign's National Advisory Committee. "Congressman Hamilton is one of the most respected public figures in our nation," said CMS Executive Committee Chair Mabel McKinney-Browning, "we are so fortunate that Mr. Hamilton has agreed to Co-Chair the NAC and for his interest in restoring the civic mission of our schools."

Mr. Hamilton served as a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the ninth district of Indiana from 1965 until 1999. Mr. Hamilton served as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on International Relations and as Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Mr. Hamilton served as Vice Chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States and Co-Chairman of the Iraq Study Group. Currently, Mr. Hamilton is the President and director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University.

The Campaign Steering Committee – Strategic Direction and Partners in the Work

As our strategic priorities and grant-related work have evolved, we have added new partners to the Campaign Steering Committee, most recently **Arnie Fege**, Director of Public Engagement and Advocacy at the Public Education Network; **Ira Harkavy**, Vice President of University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at University of Pennsylvania; **Hon. Jeri Thomson**, former Secretary of the United States Senate; **Molly McCloskey** of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and the First Amendment Schools Program; **Carolyn Pereira**, Executive Director of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago; **Lee MacVaugh** of the Character Education Partnership; **Julie Harris** of the Cesar Chavez Charter School for Public Policy, and **Moises Flores**, a recent graduate of the Cesar Chavez program. Each of these new members brings a fresh perspective and new considerations to our semi-annual Steering Committee meetings, which have been used recently to analyze and refine the Campaign's strategic plan of work. The Committee represents the critical importance of pursuing the civic mission schools as a shared and collaborative endeavor. Over the coming year, the Campaign will deepen and renew several enduring collaborations to enhance our success in achieving our shared goals.

UPDATE ON CAMPAIGN PROJECTS

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The CMS Campaign is planning a vigorous national communications effort, beginning with the publication of a series of Op-Eds. These op-eds will promote restoring the civic mission of schools as integral to the future of our nation and as a subject that must be included in future education reform efforts.

We are targeting Constitution Day, September 17, for Op-Eds to be published in newspapers nationwide. We plan on focusing on a range of issues, including the importance of civic learning for active citizenship, the civic achievement gap, the role of civic learning in fostering "soft skills," and the role civic learning plays in helping us face our national challenges. Our goal is to use heightened civic engagement associated with the upcoming election to raise awareness of the need for civic learning provisions in the next generation of accountability plans.

We will ask members of the National Advisory Committee, the Steering Committee, and State Campaign Directors to author Op-Eds, and will be passing along more information in the coming weeks.

We encourage every member of the CMS steering committee and campaign supporters to include articles about the civic mission of schools in their own publications during the month of September. We are happy to provide sample articles and op-eds; please contact Ted at ted@ncss.com with any questions.

Laboratory of Schools: Developing Case Studies of Best Practices

The Campaign is in the process of developing case studies of schools that are effectively meeting their civic mission by utilizing the six promising practices of the CMS Report. Known as our 'Laboratory of Schools' project, this work is the first phase of an effort to create a mutually reinforcing network of schools and districts committed to the civic mission of schools. Over the coming year, a working group of CMS Steering Committee members will examine selected schools and districts meeting their civic mission to determine how they deliver high quality civic learning to their students. Case studies exploring how the selected sites are meeting their civic mission will be developed for wide dissemination. The Working Group will examine the selected sites' curriculum and instruction, school culture and climate, supportive policies and procedures, professional development, service learning, student participation in school governance, community support, and other student civic engagement opportunities.

The members of the Working Group will make visits to the selected sites and will draft reports detailing what the school is doing to meet its mission of delivering high quality civic learning. With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the schools / districts we select will be provided with resources and technical assistance to continue to expand and improve their civic learning programs.

The Laboratory of Schools project has the dual goals of identifying strategies for effective civic learning that schools can implement individually, and informing our work on state and national education policy, especially in the context of creating effective accountability mechanisms, closing the civic achievement gap, and promoting professional development.

Special thanks to the members of the Laboratory of Schools Working Group: Group Chair Molly McCloskey (ASCD), Sam Chaltain (Five Freedom's Project), Todd Clark (CRF), Carl Glickman (Scholar in Residence, University of Georgia), Susan Griffin (NCSS) and Terry Pickeral (NCLC-ECS).

Becoming a Fifty State (and D.C.) Campaign

Over the past four years, the Campaign has provided financial and technical assistance to 18 affiliate state campaigns for the civic mission of schools. We are now in the process of becoming a fifty state (and District of Columbia) effort. The state campaigns that have been developed by the Center for Civic Education's Campaign to Promote Civic Education and the Congressional Conferences on Civic Education (sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Center on Congress at Indiana University and the Center for Civic Education) have been invited to become official CMS state affiliates in their states.

An Update on Federal Policy Advocacy

With the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also known as "No Child Left Behind") up for reauthorization next year, the Campaign is focusing on how to ensure that the new federal education framework includes civic learning. The omission of civics from the Adequate Yearly Progress provisions of Title I, the original passage of NCLB in 2002 set back the cause of civic learning. The upcoming reauthorization provides us with an invaluable opportunity to impact the next phase of education policy.

The Campaign's federal policy task force, chaired by Mabel McKinney-Browning, has developed a series of position papers on the various dimensions of the federal role in education policy. These papers – on topics ranging from assessment strategies to the civic achievement gap to professional development – will guide the federal policy task force as it hones recommendations for including civic learning in the reauthorized law sometime in 2009. These papers are available on the Campaign website, www.civicmissionofschools.org.

The task force will begin meeting again soon to formulate civic learning recommendations for the next wave of federal education policymaking. We will consider a wide range of options, including allowing the states to experiment with alternative assessment measures (such as classroom or portfolio based) and increasing funding for civic learning professional development.

We hope to receive input from a range of educators and policymakers. Please contact Ted at ted@ncss.org with ideas or questions.

Accountability and Assessment Policy Project

To provide an enhanced set of options for accountability and assessment, the Campaign's partners at The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University (CIRCLE), directed by Dr. Peter Levine, will produce an "options memo" that summarizes all significant current proposals for standards and accountability in civic learning. This work will address the technical questions that each proposal raises. The Campaign will then convene a small face-to-face retreat of experts and selected educators. This diverse group of experts and practitioners will review the options menu and generate one or more proposals. The Campaign's Coalition, composed of most of the leading stakeholders and advocacy groups in the field, will review the proposals and the background memos and will frame an official policy position on standards and accountability for the Campaign to promote.

"Civic Learning Online," Our Database of High Quality Civic Learning Practices

Over the past two years, through our partnership with the Academy for Educational Development (AED), we have documented and posted on our web-based database, Civic Learning Online, nearly 200 programs and instructional tools that exemplify promising civic learning practices. As the database of examples has grown, we have also been listening carefully to the stories of practitioners, teachers, principals, curriculum leaders, and superintendents in the field. Many of the accounts stress the importance of a school-wide commitment to preparing young people for active and engaged citizenship. Thus, we have added to Civic Learning Online this year a special section on schools and districts that exemplify this school-wide commitment, as well as criteria that provide a basis for evaluating and building such school-wide efforts. Our emerging work with the model schools forms the basis for one of the most important aspects of our plans for 2008, our "laboratory of schools" project. We will be featuring one of the CLO practices or resources on the Campaign website every two weeks as a "spotlighted" effective practice to increase awareness of CLO. We urge all associated with the Campaign to promote the CLO by highlighting this exceptional resource in publications and communications with members. Kenny Holdsmen and Kelley Nuxoll of AED have done a terrific job of putting together the CLO.

You can access the CLO by visiting the Campaign website: www.civicmissionofschools.org

Spotlight on the National Advisory Council: Getting the Message Out

The members of our National Advisory Council are our most important spokespeople and our most valued assets. Their presentations and speeches to national audiences this past year have helped the Campaign communicate, with urgency and eloquence, that our mission should be a national priority. Justice O'Connor addressed the 2007 annual conference of the National Council for the Social Studies, one of our key partners in revitalizing the civic mission of our nation's schools.



"Americans are fortunate to have a durable and stable democratic environment. But does that mean that we can be complacent in assuming that our luck will continue. Our children – or grandchildren in any case – will grow up to be the guardians of democracy and of the rule of law, or, if they fail, they will grow up to be responsible for the downfall of our system of government. I do not mean to be alarmist, I simply mean to point out that it is the citizens of the nation who must preserve democracy, and we should not forget that. The better educated our citizens are, the more equipped they will be do so."

- Justice O' Connor at the National Council for Social Studies Conference in San Diego, CA.



National Advisory Council member Judge Marjorie Rendell appeared at the annual meeting of the Learn and Serve America state grantees in Washington, D.C. and spoke with passion about a new generation of young people reinvigorating our democracy. Judge Rendell has been a leader in civic learning both in Pennsylvania and both in her work in Pennsylvania, with the Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy (PennCORD), and as National Advisory Council member, Judge Rendell brings vision, remarkable eloquence, and energy to the podium.

CAMPAIGN STAFF

Ted McConnell is the Executive Director of the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, and is responsible for all aspects of the Campaign's operations. Prior to joining the Campaign, Ted directed the Campaign to Promote Civic Education, a fifty state effort to revitalize and strengthen civic education at the state and district levels, an initiative of the Center for Civic Education. He also served as Co-Coordinator of the Congressional Conferences on Civic Education 2003-2006. Ted was a founding member of the CMS Executive and Steering Committees.

Ted has been involved in the political, governmental and non-profit sectors for over thirty years, and has worked in the management of thirty campaigns across the country. He attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he majored in Political Science and Business Administration. To contact Ted, please e-mail ted@ncss.org or call 301-588-1800 ext. 123.

Kenneth Holdsman directs the Civic Learning On-Line Program of the Campaign and is a senior program officer at the Academy for Educational Development. He directs the W. K. Kellogg Youth Innovation Fund and serves on the team managing the National Service-Learning Partnership. Prior to joining AED, he was Director of Service-Learning for the Philadelphia School District from 1999-2002, managing the creation of the District's Service-Learning Initiative, a graduation requirement adopted in 1998 for all 210,000 students. Holdsman is also an adjunct faculty member at Temple University's College of Education and serves on the board of the Philadelphia Student Union, which promotes youth-led organizing and activism among Philadelphia's school students. He holds a law degree from Temple University School of Law. Kenny can be reached at kholdsma@aed.org

Jon Gould is the program associate at the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, where he works closely with the executive director on a variety of projects including communications strategy and federal policy. Jon is a rising junior at Harvard College, where he studies political theory. He chairs the policy program at Harvard's Institute of Politics, and has worked for a variety of political campaigns, including those of John Kerry and Deval Patrick in his home state of Massachusetts.

Gould has shown a commitment to civic education through his leadership of the Harvard Civic Education Policy Group, a group dedicated to re-infusing civic education into state and national education policy. For the past two years he has also taught a weekly civics course to students in Boston and Cambridge public schools. To contact Jon, please e-mail jon@ncss.org or call 301-588-1800 ext. 112.

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