



**November/December**

**Welcome to Citizenship Matters, from the National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) at the Education Commission of the States (ECS). This bimonthly newsletter focuses on ECS' work in improving citizenship education in our nation's schools.**

### **Guest Column**

When the Hawaii State Board of Education was set to remove one of the four social studies credits required for high school graduation, **LYLA BERG** did not shrug her shoulders and say, "Too bad." She organized a citizens group, the Aloha POSSE, which fought to retain the credit. Read her passionate account of [citizenship in action](#) in Hawaii.

### **What States Are Doing**

Regarding instruction in American history and government, **UTAH** Governor Gary Herbert has signed into law [House Bill 220](#) that replaces the requirement for an "appropriate" study of certain historical documents with the requirement for a "thorough" study of such documents.

**NORTH CAROLINA** Governor Beverly Perdue has signed into law [House Bill 588](#) which amends civic literacy curriculum requirements related to the founding of the United States to include a specific requirement that high school students take a semester-long course entitled American History I – The Founding Principles. In addition, it establishes that a passing grade in the course will be a high school graduation requirement beginning with the 2014-15 school year.

In its continuing efforts to chronicle civic health in the states, the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) announces that [INDIANA](#), [CONNECTICUT](#), [CALIFORNIA](#) and [ARIZONA](#) have released their respective Civic Health Reports. NCoC partners with local institutions to measure civic indicators in states. For more information about others in the series, visit their [Web site](#).

In **TENNESSEE**, Governor Bill Haslam has signed into law two pieces of legislation that require the state board of education, in consultation with the department of education, to review the current elementary and secondary curriculum standards for the subject of [United States and Tennessee government](#) and for [civics education](#).

### **Good Reads**

*Failing Liberty 101* contends that the United States faces the real danger of losing the very liberty we've worked so hard to protect. Author William Damon says we are failing to prepare the **NEXT GENERATION** of citizens for the responsibilities inherent in active, responsible citizenship. As publisher Hoover Press puts it starkly, Damon explains "why, unless we begin to

pay attention and meet our challenge as stewards of a priceless heritage, our nation and the future prospects of all individuals dwelling here in years to come will suffer, moving away from liberty and towards despotism — and this movement will be both inevitable and astonishingly quick.”

According to a new report by the National Conference on Citizenship, states with higher levels of civic engagement are more resilient in an economic downturn. *CIVIC HEALTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT: Can Engagement Strengthen the Economy?* compares civic indicators with eight economic indicators and finds that “areas with higher civic participation rates experienced less growth in unemployment in the last five years than areas with lower civic participation.” The report acknowledges that the evidence is “circumstantial, suggestive and far from conclusive,” but notes that it is hoped that the results spur further research and public discussion on the economic impact of civic engagement.

*Measuring the Impact of Civic Engagement: Tracking Outcomes in Health, Education and Economic Security*, documents the task of developing the Civic Engagement Measurement System (CEMS), which measures the impact and outcomes of **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES** in the human services field. For more information about the development process and the very useful CEMS visit the [Web site](#).

Part of the New Frontiers in Education Series, **TEACHING AMERICA: The Case for Civic Education** has as many opinions as chapters. Twenty-two authors contributed chapters, some making the case, others dealing with policy lessons learned, what works (and doesn't) in the classroom, civic engagement on higher ed campuses and, finally, a vision for the 21st century. The book is edited by David Feith. Read contributor Peter Levine's [blog post](#) about *Teaching America*.

## NCLC News

NCLC welcomes new staff members **MOLLY RYAN**, Assistant Policy Analyst, and Brady Delander. Molly is an attorney and has been working in the ECS Clearinghouse for the past few years. She brings strong policy experience to the NCLC team. **BRADY DELANDER** has joined the Education Commission of the States after more than a decade as a writer and editor for various publications and journals. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Northern Colorado that will serve him well in his capacity as assistant editor/administrative assistant with NCLC.

Longtime NCLC staffer, **ANN RAUTIO**, is retiring at the end of the year after 14 years with the National Center for Learning and Citizenship at ECS. Rautio is currently the editor of *Citizenship Matters* and will pass on those duties to Brady Delander.

## Meetings and Events

The National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) and youthrive, the Upper Midwest Affiliate of PeaceJam International, are partnering to bring **OUR WORLD, OUR FUTURE**, the largest gathering of youth and practitioners in the service-learning movement. Make plans now to attend the National Service-Learning Conference and youthrive PeaceJam Leadership Conference, April 11-14, 2012, in Minneapolis. NCLC is proud to be an Affiliate Sponsor of this exciting event. Visit the Web site for more information. <http://nslc.nylc.org/>

NCLC staff Paul Baumann, Lisa Guilfoile and Molly Ryan attended the **8th ANNUAL YOUTH SERVICE INSTITUTE**, Youth Service America's (YSA) signature training event, October 24-26 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The gathering of grantees and partners committed to improving communities by increasing the number and the diversity of young people serving was the largest Youth Service Institute YSA has ever convened. In addition to numerous training opportunities, grantees and partners heard from such distinguished and inspiring speakers as David Eisner, president & CEO of the National Constitution Center, Martin Freidman, executive director of EducationWorks and youth from across the country dedicated to enriching their local communities through youth service.

NCLC staff members Lisa Guilfoile and Molly Ryan are members of the Colorado Service-Learning Council **WORK GROUP**. The group was formed as a result of the potential removal of state Learn and Serve funding from the Congressional budget. Council members are committed to the future of service-learning in Colorado.

The NCLC **EXECUTIVE BOARD** will meet in Denver December 7-8 in conjunction with the ECS Winter Commissioners Meeting. NCLC will host a session at the Commissioners Meeting, "Investing in Civic Engagement: Why and How," moderated by Delaine Eastin (consultant and former California superintendent of public instruction), with panelists Kathy Payne (State Farm Insurance Companies) and Ted McConnell (Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools).

### **Names in the News**

**HOPKINSVILLE (Kentucky) MIDDLE SCHOOL** is featured in the current issue of NYLC 's *The Generator, Fall 2011*. The article describes how Principal Wendy Duvall used grant funds from NCLC's Schools of Success initiative to fund scholarships for her students to attend a summer camp where students engage in STEM-related projects.

<http://www.nylc.org/sites/nylc.org/files/GeneratorFall2011.pdf>

The September 2011 issue of *The School Administrator* featured an article about 10 school superintendents who faced and resolved difficult decisions with acts of courageous leadership. Two of those superintendents were members of NCLC's District Leaders Network: **SHELDON BERMAN AND DARLINE ROBLES**. We are proud to call them colleagues and invite you to [read their stories](#) of ethical and engaged citizenship. You can read all 10 accounts in "Courageous Acts: Personal Tales" at the AASA Web site.

<http://www.aasa.org/SchoolAdministratorIssue.aspx?id=19996>

## Other Useful Web sites

Need some good news? Check out the "[KIDS ON THE WIRE](#)" page at [What Kids Can Do](#) (WKCD) for news stories about adolescents making a difference, speaking up and out, contributing to their communities, and forging innovation. WKCD promotes young people as valued resources, not problems, and advocates for learning that engages students as knowledge creators and not simply test takers.

Are you an **UPSTANDER**? If so, you are someone who stands up to bullying, who is part of the solution to end harmful harassment, teasing and violence in schools. And now, BullyBust, a nationwide bullying prevention awareness campaign of the National School Climate Center (NSCC), announces the launch of the [Upstander Alliance](#). The alliance provides free resources to help student teams, working with adult moderators at the school, create projects aimed at raising awareness of and preventing bullying. There's much more at NSCC's [BullyBust Web site](#).

## International Focus

The International Center for Service-Learning in **TEACHER EDUCATION** (ICSLTE) is pleased to announce its call for proposals for the international conference *Conversations that Matter III: Research, Practice and Policy*. The conference will be held June 21-23, 2012 at Duke University.

The International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE) invites you to **JOIN IN CONVERSATION** with fellow researchers and practitioner-scholars through the inaugural [conference Proceedings](#). The Proceedings is an online, interactive publication that provides summaries and references for the over 150 sessions to be facilitated by scholars from around the world at the 11th annual conference November 2-4, in Chicago. It is intended to increase the public visibility of research related to service-learning and community engagement and to facilitate communication and collaboration among researchers and practitioner-scholars.