



## NJDOE News

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**For Release: December 1, 2004**

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### **State Board Recognizes Civic Student Group from Middlesex County's Achievement**

The State Board of Education honored the award winning student members of the East Brunswick High School *We the People* team as its December Students of the Month.

*We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* promotes civic competence among the nation's elementary and secondary students and enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. It is funded by the United States Department of Education by act of Congress. The East Brunswick team, led by team advisor Alan Brodman, has won the state competition 14 out of the last 15 years and recently won their second national competition.

"The dominance of the East Brunswick team, both in the state of New Jersey and nationwide, is a credit to the preparation of the students and the commitment towards their success exhibited by their advisor, parents and the school district in general," said State Board President Arnold G. Hyndman. "Their success showcases one of this Board's primary goals in our Strategic Plan: to ensure that student performance at all levels is enhanced through the participation in exceptional educational programs or activities. We are very proud."

"The department joins the State Board in commending the East Brunswick High School team members on their success," stated Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "By working and preparing together as a team, you have achieved at a level that should be an example to all New Jersey schools. On behalf of the department, we wish your entire program continued victories in the future."

The members of the winning team are:

- Sam Lau;
- Stephanie Horwitz;
- Michael Gerson;
- Yan Cui;
- Lauren Volosin; and
- Mark Pruce

The foundation of the *We the People* program is the classroom curriculum. It complements the regular school curriculum by providing upper elementary, middle and high school students with an innovative course of instruction on the history and principles of constitutional democracy in the United States.

Participants hold a simulated congressional hearing as the culminating activity for the program. Teams present statements before a panel of community representatives who act as congressional committee members. High school competition begins at the congressional district level with teams from each school vying for the district championship. District winners go on to compete at a statewide hearing, and state champions travel to Washington, D.C., in the spring to represent their state in the national finals.

More than 1200 high school students and their teachers participate annually in the *We the People* national finals

Each month during the school year, the State Board recognizes a student or group of students for accomplishments in community service, the arts, academics, personal achievement and sports. In November, the State Board honored Stephen Castano, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student attending Roy W. Brown Middle School in Bergen County.

For more information, please contact the Department of Education's Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126 or access the program's website at

<http://www.civiced.org/wethepeople.php>

