



For Immediate Release
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**WE THE PEOPLE: PROJECT CITIZEN CONFERENCE BRINGS
U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL CIVIC EDUCATORS TO MIAMI**

MIAMI – More than 440 civic educators from the United States and seven other countries will convene at the InterContinental Hotel for the eighth annual We the People: Project Citizen leadership conference, Oct. 9–12. Sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, the conference brings together public officials, government scholars, classroom teachers and international educators to examine effective and engaging methods in teaching civics.

On Saturday, Oct. 10, at 9:45 a.m., Florida State Representative Rene Garcia, District 110, gives the keynote address, “Project Citizen – A Model in Civic Discourse.”

On Sunday, Oct. 11, at 10:30 a.m., Florida Supreme Court Justice R. Fred Lewis speaks on “Judicial Decision-Making in the Public Policymaking Process.”

The Center for Civic Education’s Project Citizen program teaches young people how to monitor and influence public policy. “The program challenges students to select a community issue, conduct research, identify potential solutions, and create an action plan to solve the problem,” explained Michael Fischer, Project Citizen director. “In Miami, students have resolved traffic safety issues, pursued tougher DUI laws and worked successfully with the state legislature in increasing the penalty for selling drugs near parks and libraries.”

On Friday, Oct. 9, civic educators from Bosnia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Panama, Peru and Slovakia will visit two local classrooms. From 8:15–9:45 a.m., the delegation will observe Rosie Heffernan’s AP government class at Our Lady of Lourdes Academy. At 11 a.m., the group will visit Jackie Viana’s civics and law studies class at Hialeah Gardens Middle School.

Program Background:

Project Citizen is administered nationally by the Center for Civic Education in cooperation with the National Conference of State Legislatures. More than 2.2 million students and 37,000 teachers have participated in Project Citizen since the program’s inception in 1995. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the U.S. Congress.

Project Citizen is also implemented in more than 65 countries through the Center for Civic Education’s Civitas International program.

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