



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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PAT QUINN
GOVERNOR

September 18, 2009

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
407 S. Dearborn Street
Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Greetings!

On behalf of the people of the State of Illinois, I extend my best wishes and congratulations to the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition and Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, along with Illinois State Board of Education Chair Jesse H. Ruiz and your partner elected officials, for commemorating Constitution Day 2009 by honoring three Illinois high schools for their efforts to become endorsed as Illinois Democracy Schools.

I am especially proud to recognize Glenbard South High School in Glen Ellyn, Principal Terri Hanrahan, and Team Members Elizabeth McGann, Kelly McGorray, Jamie Frodyma, and Brendan Gaughan; Maine West High School of Des Plaines, Principal Audrey Haugan, and Team Members Dan Fouts, Kelly Pecak, Gwynne Ryan, and Susan Gahagan Mueller; and Wheaton North High School in Wheaton, Principal Jill Bullo, and Team Members Hayley Lotspeich, Alexia Ellett, Dan Korntheuer, and Phyllis Kidd, for earning their special designation as Illinois Democracy Schools by making a consistent and comprehensive effort to teach the rights, obligations and tensions of citizenship in a constitutional democracy. As students develop essential citizenship knowledge and skills, they need genuine civic experiences which link the classroom to the 'real world.' Democracy Schools are outstanding in this regard for the way they help their students explore both America's historic ideals and principles, and their relevance to the present.

I applaud the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition and the McCormick Foundation for developing the *Civic Blueprint for Illinois High Schools*, which gives educators, policymakers, parents and all residents of Illinois promising examples of outstanding civic education in practice, and resources to implement these critical educational goals in their communities. The Illinois State Board of Education is to be commended today for formally endorsing this new publication as the gold standard for civic education in our great State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn
Governor