

A Message from Robert Leming, National Director, We the People . . .

On behalf of the Center for Civic Education, it is my pleasure to announce the 25th Anniversary 2012 National Finals, April 27-30, 2012. The campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia will serve as the competition site.

The Center and WorldStrides have been working to develop a student package that is both affordable and will support a high quality national finals event. Exact cost will be announced in December, but we expect it to range from around \$1,000 for those traveling by bus to Washington D. C. to around \$1,200-\$1,500 (east coast and west coast, respectively) for those flying out of major airports to Washington D. C. As always, the class package includes a complimentary trip for the teacher. However, a class chaperon will need to purchase a package.

Our goal is to have classes representing all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Marianna Islands participating in the National Finals.

You'll see some changes to this year's event and package to reflect our recent funding changes, but you can be assured that it will continue to be a quality competition with nationwide representation. The Center will invite 50 judges from throughout the nation from your nominations and 26 judges from the Washington D.C. area.

As you know, fundraising for the National Finals can be a daunting task. To help with fundraising, the Center is developing a web page designed to collect donations for all states. In addition, the Center has been contacting foundations and corporations to solicit financial support. We suggest that you encourage classes to begin fundraising as soon as possible

The Center's staff is committed to making the 25th anniversary We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals a huge success. Your help and inspiration will ensure that more than a thousand students and teachers have the best educational experience of their lives! Please share our excitement about the 25th anniversary 2012 National Finals with all teachers participating in your state program.

Robert S. Leming
Director, We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution
Center for Civic Education
800-350-4223 (office)