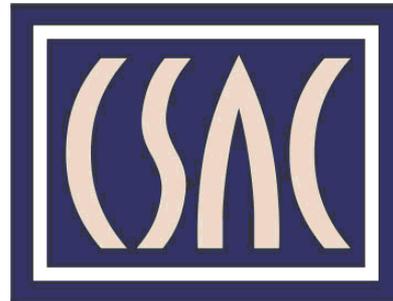


# **Governments Engaging Youth: A Pipeline to Public Service Careers and Civics Education**

**Senate Elections and Constitutional  
Amendments Committee Informational Hearing  
March 17, 2017  
Reseda High School**

**ILG is the non-profit  
research and education  
affiliate of**



**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*

# Governments Engaging Youth

## Objective:

Communities and schools collaborate to prepare students for civic life and college/career readiness.



*Elk Grove youth participate in a mock council meeting and serve as the City Attorney, City Manager and City Clerk*

# Governments Engaging Youth

- **Strategy:** Create strong partnerships between school districts and local government entities to offer students opportunities to gain 21st century work skills, build interest in public service careers, provide tools to become civically aware and engaged and bring authentic youth voice to local government issues.
- **Partners:** Sacramento County Office of Education, National Academy Foundation, Linked Learning Alliance, Council for Strong America

# Why Target the Public Sector Service?

- Need for more diverse workforce to reflect community.
- Baby boomer retirements.
- Local governments offer a wide range of career paths.
- Civic engagement is problematic:
  - The United States ranks **139th** in voter participation of 172 democracies around the world.
  - Less than **8%** of registered 18-24 year-olds actually voted in the 2014 primary election.
  - **55%** of all youth ages 12-18 volunteer; less for youth of color.

# Governments Engaging Youth – Program Goals

- Create a high school to career pipeline to ensure a more diverse and prepared public sector workforce.
- Students learn civic and 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce skills.
- Students learn how to become active citizens.
- Strengthen school and city partnership.
- Strengthen intergenerational relationships and improve adult knowledge of youth.

# Summer at City Hall: Sacramento



# Program Structure

- 6 weeks
- 8AM–12PM: Instruction by certificated teacher
- 1PM–5PM: Internships
- Breakfast and lunch provided
- Weekly bus passes provided
- \$300 stipend for 36-hour internship
- 5 high school credits earned





# Curriculum

- Week 1 - 21st Century Workforce Skill Development
- Week 2 - What it means to be an Active Citizen
- Week 3 - Local Government Basics
- Week 4 – Advocacy -Issue ID and Research
- Week 5 – Advocacy continued & Financial Literacy/Goal Setting /College Exploration
- Week 6 – Present Advocacy project to Panel of Council members

# Internships

- City Council Offices
- City Attorney
- City Clerk
- Teen Services
- Human Resources
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Revenue Division
- Crocker Art Museum
- Business Partnerships
- Regional Transit
- Office of Congresswoman Matsui
- Bank of America
- School District Office(s)
- Engineering
- NextEd
- Economic Development Department
- Animal Care
- Recycling & Solid Waste Division
- Sacramento Tree Foundation
- Parking Division
- Sacramento Employment & Training Agency (SETA)
- Sacramento Zoo
- Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

# LAUNCHPATH: A Web-Based System

- Matches internship opportunities with students
- Enables students to develop resumes
- Enables students to record skills and gain badges
- Reduces administrative burden of processing student applications

# Advocacy Project

- Purpose: To develop student civic leaders who can effect direct change in their community.
- Structure:
  - Student led group projects organized by City Council Districts
  - Students ID and research problems, develop and advocate a solution
  - Students present recommendations to officials from the City, County, and School Districts

# Returning Youth

Several students return after their participation in the program to act as mentors and team building facilitators for the next class of Summer at City Hall students.



# Program Outcomes

## Skills and Knowledge Acquired by Students:

- Financial literacy
- Research and advocacy
- Local government and citizenship
- Workforce readiness
- Communication
- Professionalism
- How to use public transit
- Work environment
- Importance of networking

## Other Outcomes:

- Become interested in public service careers
- Build relationships with adults
- Identify ways students can impact their community
- Become aware of voting process and registration rules

# Adult Outcomes

Adults report:

- Better understanding needs/perspectives of youth
- Seeing youth as resources
- Stronger interest in hiring youth from the community
- Teachers better understand city government
- Teachers learn inquiry based SL method
- City/schools experience positive relationships

# Summer at City Hall: Yuba City



# Summer at City Hall

- City Council Member Champion.
- A partnership of City of Yuba City with Yuba City Unified School District, Sutter County Superintendent of Schools and Northern California STREAM Pathways Consortium Grant Funds.
- Planning for project: a collaboration between City Council and City staff with schools and STREAM Board members.

# Program Components

- Started program in summer 2016.
- 18 students.
- 3 week program.
- 8:30AM – 3:00PM.
- Classroom instruction at City Hall.
- 2 half days of job shadows.
- Mock council meeting.
- Department tours/guest speakers.



# Curriculum

- Introduction to local government
- Role of the city council
- State capitol site visit
- What it means to be an active citizen: vote, volunteer, advocate and lead
- Job ready skills
- Mock Council meeting
- Job shadow
- Tours of courts, hospitals, registrar of voters, city facilities

# Pipeline to Public Service: Careers and Civics Education



# GEY Statewide Effort

- Online toolkit
- Engaging local government leaders around the state about the value and opportunity of GEY
- Upcoming:
  - Community of Practice
  - Clarifying Core Civic and 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies
  - Digital badging information
- Identifying models of existing GEY program in California
- Seeking new sites to implement tailored GEY programs

# ILG Resources/Contact

## **Governments Engaging Youth**

[www.ca-ilg.org/GovernmentsEngagingYouth](http://www.ca-ilg.org/GovernmentsEngagingYouth)

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