

The Center on Congress at Indiana University

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Entries Due March 7 for American Civic Education Teacher Awards

March 7 is the application deadline for teachers who wish to be considered for the 2008 American Civic Education Teacher Awards (ACETA).

The Awards are given annually to elementary and secondary teachers of civics, government and related fields who have demonstrated special expertise and dynamism in motivating students to learn about Congress, the Constitution, and public policy.

The ACETA program is jointly sponsored by the Center on Congress, the Center for Civic Education, and the National Education Association.

Each year the ACETA program selects and showcases three teachers who are doing exemplary work in preparing young people to become informed and engaged citizens. Applicants must be full-time classroom teachers of grades K-12.

Applications for the 2008 Awards must be postmarked by Friday, March 7. There is no fee to apply. In addition to a two-page "self-portrait" essay, applicants must submit three letters of recommendation - two from teaching peers and one from their school principal. The application form is at www.centeroncongress.org

The ACETA winners will be announced in early April. In July the awardees will participate in a three-day educational program in the nation's capital. They will attend floor sessions and committee hearings in Congress, meet members of Congress and other key officials, and visit sites such as the National Archives and the U.S. Supreme Court. The Office of the Historian of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Historical Office of the U.S. Senate will also participate in the educational program. Awardees' travel and lodging expenses are provided by the sponsoring organizations.

About the Center on Congress

The Center on Congress is a non-partisan, educational institution established in 1999 to help improve the public's understanding of Congress and to encourage civic engagement. The Center developed out of Lee Hamilton's recognition during his 34 years in the U.S. House of Representatives that the public should be more familiar with Congress' strengths and weaknesses, its role in our system of government, and its impact on the lives of ordinary people every day.

The Center seeks to inspire young people and adults to take an active part in revitalizing representative government in America. To that end the Center offers an extensive array

of civic education resources and activities, including: print publications; Web-based, interactive modules and other online learning tools in English and Spanish; commentaries for newspapers, radio stations, podcasts and a Web log; video and television in the classroom resources; survey research; teacher awards; and seminars, conferences, and a lecture series.

For more information, see www.centeroncongress.org

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