



TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council



TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

September 9, 2016

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators,
High School Principals, and Elementary School Principals:

2016–17 CIVIC LEARNING AWARDS

The qualifications for self-government are not innate. They are the result of habit and long training.

Thomas Jefferson

We recognize and value the crucial role that public schools play in preparing each generation for participation in our democracy, so it is with great enthusiasm that we invite you to apply for the California Civic Learning Award. Following the recommendation of the California Task Force on K–12 Civic Learning (<http://www.powerofdemocracy.org/civic-learning/k-12-civic-learning-taskforce>) that civic learning begin in kindergarten, all of California's public elementary, middle, and high schools are invited to apply. However, schools will be compared only with schools that serve similar grades. The awards are designed to celebrate successful efforts to engage students in civic learning and to identify effective models that can be replicated in other schools. Applications are due **January 9, 2017**.

The Civic Learning Award program has three levels: Awards of Excellence, Distinction, and Merit. Winners will be selected by a panel of experts based on the depth and breadth of their civic learning classes, clubs, and programs. Award of Excellence winners will receive a personal visit from Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye; Award of Distinction winners will be visited by an appellate court justice; and superior court judicial officers will provide recognition to schools receiving the Award of Merit. The winners in the two top categories will also receive a plaque and be invited to a California Gold Ribbon Award Banquet hosted by the California Department of Education.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to recognize the civic educators at your school and share the attached application with them. The application is also available at www.courts.ca.gov/23201.htm and www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/civiclearningaward.asp.

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If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Genzer, Judicial Council of California, at 415-865-8755 or deborah.genzer@jud.ca.gov, or Janet Mann, California Department of Education, at jmann@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council



TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

TT:jm
Attachment

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