On January 25, the Foundation released the 2021 Indiana Civic Health Index. This year's index provides insights into Indiana’s civic health, trends, and recommendations on how the state can improve civic education and engagement. The report also offers 10-year data on key civic health categories. This is the fifth biennial report and created by primary author Ellen Szarleta, Director, Center for Urban and Regional Excellence and Professor, School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Northwest and contributors D. William Moreau, Jr., Founder and President of the Indiana Citizen Education Foundation, Inc., and myself. Please take time to read through the index and share your thoughts with me.

Civic Education

Foundation Actively Involved As Middle School Civics Standards Take Shape

Foundation President and CEO Charles Dunlap has been appointed to the Indiana Civic Education Commission by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. The Commission will “discuss and review the most up to date information regarding best practices, pedagogy, and policy for civic education.” Additionally, Foundation Director of Civic Education, Tim Kalgreen, has been appointed to the statewide committee reviewing the middle school civic education standards. Public Comment on the proposed Civics standards began January 24 and will continue through February 12. View the Grade 6 Civics standards here.

Mock Trial Goes Virtual; Judges Needed

With the safety of students, volunteers, and staff in mind, the 2022 Mock Trial regionals and state finals will be held via Zoom. Judges are needed for regionals February 19 and 26. The state competition will occur March 12-13. Judges can participate from the convenience of their home or office for this totally virtual competition. All interested individuals are asked to respond before February 8. The judge’s volunteer form is located here. Contact Joseph O’Connor with any questions.

Blending ELA and Social Studies: Using Authentic Programs to Bring the Subjects Together

Indiana middle and high school teachers are invited to learn how two Foundation programs, We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution and Mock Trial, align with teaching English Language Arts. The free session will be presented on February 7 at 7 p.m. (EST) by Tim Kalgreen, director of civic education at the Indiana Bar Foundation, and Tony Sturgeon, English teacher at Fishers Junior High School. While this session will focus primarily on middle and high school MS & HS teachers, the We the People program is also applicable for upper elementary teachers. Register here.
Foundation Hiring Two Content Management Specialists

The Foundation is hiring two Content Management Specialists. These advocates are passionate about supporting civil legal assistance for all Hoosiers, have some legal experience, and are willing to learn and use technology. The individuals will have a real impact on our community by creating easy-to-understand legal resources and collaborating with other legal professionals around Indiana. There are two available positions, one full-time and one part-time.

Development, Marketing, and Communications

Mock Trial Diversity Initiative Growing and Asking for Additional Partners

The Foundation is proud to announce eight schools are participating in the inaugural year of the Mock Trial Diversity Initiative (MTDI) presented by Krieg DeVault LLP. More than $50,000 has been donated to the initiative. Beyond their financial support our partners are also volunteering as legal advisors and competition judges. For additional information about the program or volunteer opportunities please contact Kim Berry.

News Briefs

In partnership with the Historical Society for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Inc., the Foundation is among supporters of the Federal Court Learning Center. When completed the Learning Center will capture and display the amazing history of the Southern Indiana District Court through interactive exhibits, artifacts, and other interesting historical information. Additional information about the project is available here. Please contact Libby Cierzniak with any questions.

The Foundation congratulates board member and Floyd County Circuit Court Judge J. Terrence Cody for being among recipients of the IU Southeast 2022 Chancellor's Medallion. The honor is bestowed to those demonstrating distinguished service to the school and community. Medallion recipients will be honored during a dinner celebration in April.