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Civic Education Award Presented to Newberg Teachers

PORTLAND – A group of sixth grade teachers from Newberg received the Civic Education Award at the League of Oregon Cities’ (LOC) 88th annual conference, held September 26-28 at the Red Lion on the River. The award recognizes educators who have promoted local government education in Oregon schools. The teachers from Mountain View Middle School, Chehalem Valley Middle School, and C.S. Lewis Academy were recognized for their involvement in the “Design Star” program, a learning collaboration between city staff and local middle school teachers that includes almost every sixth grader in Newberg.

As part of the program, city staff uses GIS mapping to present information about the city, how it is planned and organized and how different types of land is used for housing, jobs and parks. The teachers then instruct students on civic and planning concepts, having students work in groups on development proposals for one of two vacant sites in the city. After several weeks of work, the students then present their proposals to the class, talking about positive and negative impacts of their plan. The winning proposals are then presented by the students to the city council and staff. Now in its seventh year, this program helps students to develop critical thinking skills while introducing them to the basic principles of planning. The program requires students to think critically about the city they live in, which lays a solid foundation for future civic engagement.

About the Civic Education Award

The Civic Education Award was created in 1998 by the League of Oregon Cities’ (LOC) Board of Directors to offer recognition to educators in Oregon who have promoted local government education in Oregon’s schools. The award is for individuals who demonstrate their commitment to fostering civic responsibility in youth.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the League of Oregon Cities is a voluntary association representing all 242 of Oregon’s incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

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