



Chiesman Center
for DEMOCRACY, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Spearfish students selected to move on to the Project Citizen National Showcase

Pierre, SD – On March 4th, Spearfish Middle School’s “*Raiders of the Lost Park – Pine Bark Beetle Kill at Mount Rushmore*” Project Citizen Portfolio and documentation binder received a level of achievement rating of Superior. The project by sixth graders was also selected by a Blue Ribbon Committee to advance to the Project Citizen National Showcase to be held in Louisville, Kentucky this summer. Two other portfolios scored a Superior achievement level, Spearfish Middle School’s portfolio “*Grass and Trash Do Not Match – Recycling in Spearfish*” received the highest level of all portfolios at the State Showcase and Wall Middle School’s “*Fight for Less Appetite*” received the third highest level.

The State Showcase event was held in Pierre in conjunction with the Legislative Session and Civic Education Day at the Capitol. The event was held at the King’s Inn and Convention Center, and featured seven middle school portfolios.

Scoring an Exceptional achievement level was Newell Middle School portfolios “*Time to Fix the Roads*” and “*What’s for Lunch?*” and Wall Middle School’s “*No Pay, No Weigh*” portfolio. Humboldt Elementary School achieved an Outstanding with their “*Year Round School*” portfolio.

South Dakota Project Citizen is a program of the Center for Civic Education and The Chiesman Center for Democracy. The South Dakota Project Citizen State Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentations are the culmination of an interactive civic education program designed to actively engage students in the civic life of their communities. In Project Citizen, a group of participating students identify and analyze issues facing their community (school, neighborhood, town or state). After they complete their research and evaluating the pros and cons, they propose a public policy to address the issue and develop an action plan detailing the steps to take to have their proposal adopted by the appropriate governing authority. Students develop a four panel portfolio based on their research made up of two components – a display and documentation binder. The portfolios are then evaluated by a panel of civically minded adults.

The Center for Civic Education awarded the Spearfish Middle School teacher and eight students to an all-expenses-paid trip to Louisville, Kentucky to display their portfolio at the Project Citizen National Showcase in conjunction with the National Council of State Legislators Annual Summit.

The Chiesman Center for Democracy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that serves as a forum to provide greater awareness of the meaning of democracy and the importance of active citizen participation in the democratic process. The Center promotes and supports greater awareness of democratic ideals by citizens and organizations by providing programming for civic participation, education and research.

Photo Caption: Spearfish Middle School sixth grade students present “*Raiders of the Lost Park – Pine Bark Beetle Kill at Mount Rushmore*” portfolio at the South Dakota Project Citizen State Showcase.

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For more information on the event or about South Dakota Project Citizen please **contact:**

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