



IGNITING THE TORCH OF LIBERTY

About the Institute

The Bill of Rights Institute, founded in 1999, is the leading organization devoted to teaching young people about America's Founding principles.

We believe the nation's Founders make the most compelling case for freedom and responsibility, and so we develop classroom materials, teacher and student seminars, and a rich collection of online resources, all packed with the words and ideas of the Founders themselves. Our educational materials are produced and reviewed by top constitutional scholars and meet state educational standards to ensure they can easily be used in schools nationwide.

Through our network of over 30,000 teachers across the country, we have brought a better understanding of constitutional principles to over two million students. These students are now more prepared to protect the great American experiment in liberty.



Table OF CONTENTS

4 Message from the President

5 2014 at a Glance

6 Student Education Programs

11 Teacher Education Programs

16 Educational Resources

19 About our Staff

Message FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Together, we are reclaiming the classroom and instilling in the rising generation the qualities they need for our constitutional republic to flourish.”

Our work at the Bill of Rights Institute is to inspire young people to adopt the mindset of citizens, not subjects. It is to spur in high school students a thoughtful patriotism, and to give them a sound understanding of the rights—and duties—of citizenship.

This revolutionary undertaking has never been more vital. As one recent poll reveals, nearly forty percent of 18 to 34-year-olds stated that it is time for a new Constitution. Far too many young people are giving up on the Constitution altogether. When the Founders are turned into objects of blame, and history becomes a vehicle for indictment, it is not surprising that the Declaration of Independence is rendered dead, and the Constitution is made “living.” It’s no wonder, either, as frequently America’s high schools give students little reason to love liberty.

Fortunately, the Bill of Rights Institute is rekindling the fire of liberty in schools across the nation. In its first fifteen years of work, the Bill of Rights Institute has assembled a national network of more than 43,000 teachers of U.S. history, government, and civics. These individuals have together taught millions of middle and high school students the ideas of the American experiment in self-government. The Institute lessons upon which they rely, part of the twenty-five curricula that we’ve published, will soon be given a digital home at a new web platform called “Voices of History.”

Although the Institute has reached nearly a third of American civics educators with the ideas of America’s Founders, we’re just getting started. The recent publication of Documents of History, a digital textbook in civics and economics, is already impacting hundreds of thousands of students this academic year.

Our focus on expanding our direct outreach to students also holds enormous promise. From the establishment of “Constitution Connection” programs in high schools to the “We the Students” scholarship essay contest, the Institute is impacting both the heads and hearts of students—connecting enduring principles to the lived experience of being a young American today.

Our character education resources, including a revised and expanded version of Heroes and Villains: The Quest for Virtue, leave aside finger-wagging harangues in favor of challenging young souls to reach for greatness. By putting before them examples like Frederick Douglass, Alice Paul, and George Washington, we hope that a generation of young people will take up the challenge of living virtuous lives, and in so doing make possible the future of freedom.

After all, it’s citizens, not subjects, who are worthy of the blessings of liberty.

PRESERVING THE BILL OF RIGHTS



THE BILL OF RIGHTS INSTITUTE

2014 at a Glance

This year, we published *Preserving the Bill of Rights*, twenty lessons focused on the protection of the rights expressed in the first Ten Amendments to the Constitution.



10x

as many students were placed in programs this year!

We doubled

the number of We The Students scholarships that were awarded and Eagle or Life Scouts that were recognized.

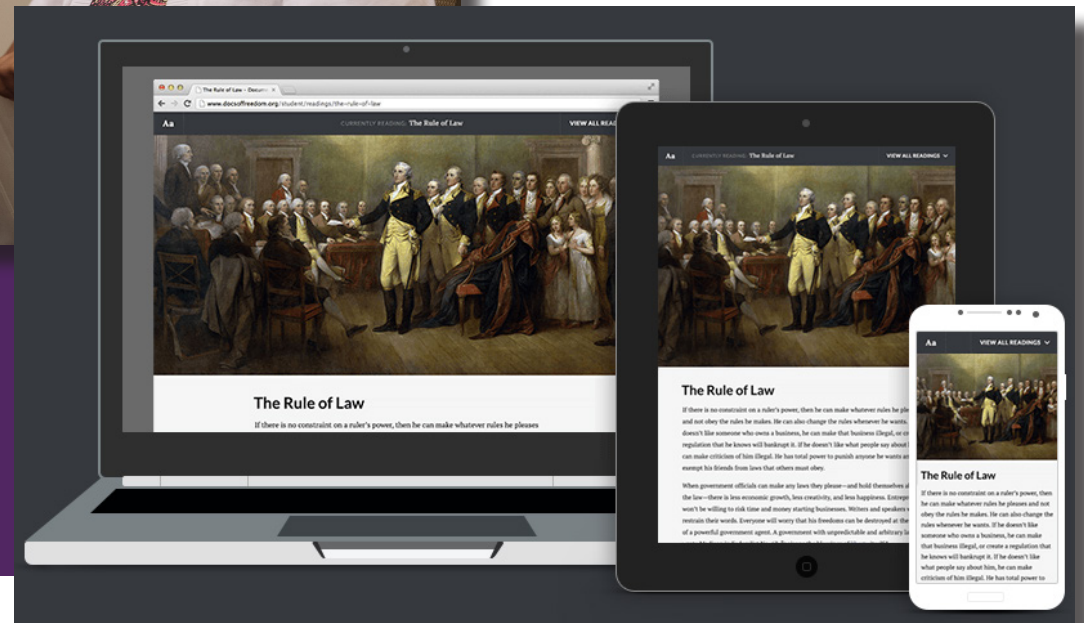
600+

educators were trained nationwide

We hosted *TWO Founders Fellowship* programs, conducting one in Philadelphia and the other in Washington, D.C., engaging the nations top educators in rigorous discussion and high quality hands-on training

8,300

educators are already using *Documents of Freedom*, our all new digital History, Government, and Economics textbook! For more information on *Documents of Freedom*, visit page 15



STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Identifying and Equipping

Students with Knowledge to Restore Liberty

“I have learned so much about individual and economic freedom. Perhaps more importantly, I learned why it is critical to maintain them. Our Constitution is a gift from our Founders that resonates with modern society far more than many may realize.”

—Razi Lane, Hillsdale College



2014 CONSTITUTIONAL ACADEMY

“This week has made me ask questions not only of what I believe but why I believe it. It’s been an extraordinary experience.”

Amy McNicoll

During her week in Washington, D.C., Amy and 49 of her peers delved into primary source documents, including the Constitution and the Federalist Papers, and developed a greater appreciation for liberty. Throughout the program, students heard from constitutional scholars and those working in public policy, helping them understand not only the importance of liberty but how they can advance it as they enter college and beyond.

Students were especially appreciative of the time that they were given to spend in small group discussions working through complex topics such as equality, civil and economic liberty, and the role of government. They also visited the Capitol building, where they discussed the role of the Constitution with Senator Mike Lee of Utah and former Senator David McIntosh. Visits to the Newseum and the Holocaust Museum helped students apply their readings to both historic and current events. A mock trial experience at the U.S. District Court in Washington D.C. and an evening monument tour gave students the quintessential D.C. experience through an education lens.

Both before and after the program, students were given a test to gauge their knowledge of and affinity for Founding principles such as limited government, private property, and individual liberty. At the completion of the program, students’ affinity score rose by 8.7 percentage points, and the average knowledge score was 79.6% (an increase of 11.5 percentage points). But our impact doesn’t stop when the Academy does; we help students find ways to actively advance the ideals of liberty when they go back home. Nearly all (97.8%) students walked out agreeing or strongly agreeing that they were now aware of “many, many specific ways that I can be civically involved.” Two students Lauren Hall (KY) and Sara Mannes (PA) are in the process of starting student clubs at their high school campuses and two other students Anne Fischer (AZ) and Trevor House (MT) attended a FEE seminar just a few weeks after the Constitutional Academy to round out their knowledge.

“Not only did I get to mold my own political views and hear amazing lectures from well known professors and speakers but also I learned and realized how important it was to be a well-informed citizen. The academy has influenced me so much and I could not possibly be any more thankful for this opportunity.”

Gerardo Castillo

WE THE STUDENTS

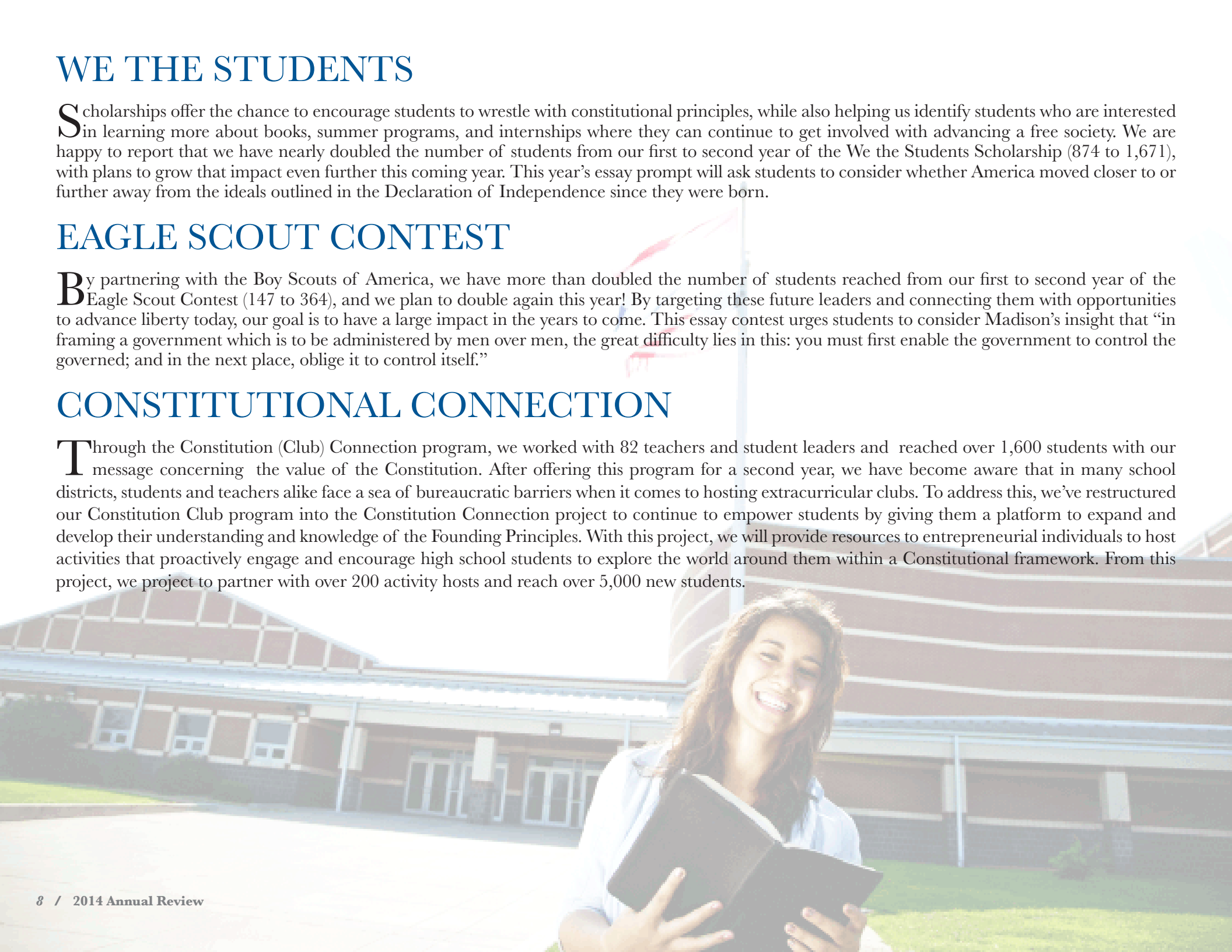
Scholarships offer the chance to encourage students to wrestle with constitutional principles, while also helping us identify students who are interested in learning more about books, summer programs, and internships where they can continue to get involved with advancing a free society. We are happy to report that we have nearly doubled the number of students from our first to second year of the We the Students Scholarship (874 to 1,671), with plans to grow that impact even further this coming year. This year's essay prompt will ask students to consider whether America moved closer to or further away from the ideals outlined in the Declaration of Independence since they were born.

EAGLE SCOUT CONTEST

By partnering with the Boy Scouts of America, we have more than doubled the number of students reached from our first to second year of the Eagle Scout Contest (147 to 364), and we plan to double again this year! By targeting these future leaders and connecting them with opportunities to advance liberty today, our goal is to have a large impact in the years to come. This essay contest urges students to consider Madison's insight that "in framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to control itself."

CONSTITUTIONAL CONNECTION

Through the Constitution (Club) Connection program, we worked with 82 teachers and student leaders and reached over 1,600 students with our message concerning the value of the Constitution. After offering this program for a second year, we have become aware that in many school districts, students and teachers alike face a sea of bureaucratic barriers when it comes to hosting extracurricular clubs. To address this, we've restructured our Constitution Club program into the Constitution Connection project to continue to empower students by giving them a platform to expand and develop their understanding and knowledge of the Founding Principles. With this project, we will provide resources to entrepreneurial individuals to host activities that proactively engage and encourage high school students to explore the world around them within a Constitutional framework. From this project, we project to partner with over 200 activity hosts and reach over 5,000 new students.



Meet

PHILIP GLAZMAN New Milford, NJ

Senior Campus Coordinator with Students for Liberty & Constitutional Academy '14 participant



Why did you choose to apply for Constitutional Academy?

“The program appealed to me because the Bill of Rights Institute reflected a genuine interest in creating a meaningful dialogue and engaging environment for the students. The Constitutional Academy was the only program that was affordable and delivered its promise of an environment that deserves praise for successfully educating its students on the principles of the Constitution.”

What Constitutional Principles do you think are being eroded?

“The Constitutional Academy exposed me to different ideas to the erosion of constitution principles that I had not recognized before. An answer that has great validity and was mentioned by one of the lecturers was the feeble divide between the legislative and executive branch. The legislative branch has delegated many of its powers to the executive branch.

How has your experience with BRI impacted you?

“The Bill of Rights Institute was helpful in showing me different career paths and options that can turn my passions into a career. Additionally, lectures from excellent professional and professors from across the nation provided different perspectives and thoughts on the ideas and principles that formed this nation. The diversity of ideas was a cornerstone of the program, and was fundamental in providing me a new lens of thought on the Constitution.”

Why do you think it's important to maintain a Constitutional culture in America?

“A population that understands their rights is the best guard against tyranny. The Bill of Rights Institute is fundamental to civil society because it encourages an increased understanding of the Constitution. More so, it encourages its students to create dialogue outside of the program on campus and in the community. The simplicity of the Constitution allows a culture to exist that protects its language and prevents an attitude of disregard.

“The diversity of ideas was a cornerstone of the program, and was fundamental in providing me a new lens of thought on the Constitution.”

-Philip Glazman



Making Connections



“In 25 years of teaching, the experience I had at the Founders Fellowship this summer was the single best training for teaching government I have ever been a part of. I am inspired and more prepared than I have ever been to train high school students in the value and appreciation of our Constitution and our country’s founders.”

-Sean Redmond, California

Engaging Teachers

WITH PRINCIPLES, TRAINING, AND RESOURCES

2014 Annual Review / 11



FOUNDERS FELLOWSHIP

The 2014 Founders Fellowship brought 39 teachers from 16 states to two historic locations--Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. At the D.C. based program entitled “Civil Liberty, Commerce, and the Constitution” participants developed their understanding of Founding principles from both a civic and economic standpoint. This dual-lens approach prepares them to teach their students about the importance and interdependence of civil and economic liberty.

During the program, teachers engaged in discussions on a range of topics, including property rights, causes of the Great Depression, and the impact of recent legislation on our economic and civil rights. Teachers also heard lectures from Institute for Justice (IJ) attorney Clark Neilly, Bill of Rights Institute President David Bobb, and West Point professor Rob McDonald. The teachers left the program equipped with a deeper understanding of the content they cover in class, which is especially important as many history and civics teachers don’t hold degrees in their area of teaching. They also received Institute materials, such as lesson plans so that they can more effectively and accurately convey this vital knowledge to their students.

CONSTITUTIONAL SEMINARS

Our Constitutional Seminars bring materials and training to teachers across the country to ensure they have the tools needed to best convey Founding principles to their students.

The seminars provide teachers a deeper understanding of background knowledge through a series of lectures by well-regarded constitutional scholars. This is especially important because many government and history teachers do not have a degree in the subject they teach. In addition to background knowledge, our Master Teachers provide classroom-tested tools and strategies to help teachers effectively convey their newfound understanding. This year our seminars focused on our Supreme Court DBQ Volume II and our newly revised Being an American: Teaching the Founding Documents High School Edition with ELL Supplement.

Each year the teachers we’ve trained through this project impact, on average, 100 students. This year alone, we directly trained _____ teachers, who will influence over 119,000 students in the coming year. By equipping them with resources and training rooted in Founding principles, teachers leave our programs with an increased understanding of our unique history and a greater affinity for these principles.

“The Bill of Rights Institute ensures that all have access to the principles and history of our great nation.”

-Elizabeth Napp, NY

Meet *KATHERINE (KATHY) HAGEE*

History Chair, Rolling Hills Preparatory and Renaissance Schools Master of American History and Government, Master of Education, James Madison Fellow PA-2012

How have the Bill of Rights Institute's programs impacted your teaching and how does that translate into student impact?

"For me, it is the content I have learned over the years that I take back to my students. The BRI has given me opportunities to grow in my content, which has been a huge confidence builder for me over the years. I am not sure a day goes by that my AP US students aren't impacted by the lessons I have learned attending one of the many wonderful professional development opportunities that were offered to me by BRI."

What is your biggest achievement as a teacher?

"This is a difficult question for me to answer. For me, it isn't about my biggest achievements...it is about the all the tiny parts that fill my day. The moments when a student has a moment of enlightenment about a concept they have struggled with or when I finally make a connection with that student that just needed one person to believe in them. I was always that student who wasn't at the top or drowning at the bottom... I never had ONE teacher that thought I was important enough to notice. It is my conviction to touch as many of those forgotten students as I can."

What are the highlights of your experiences with the Bill of Rights Institute?

"Some highlights would be my week long seminar at Mount Vernon. It had such an impact on me and completely changed the way I viewed Washington and the Founding. We had access to the entire property during off hours and I took many quiet walks trying to feel what it would be like to tour the property with GW. I remember sitting on the Piazza in complete solitude while watching the sun set in the west. It was spectacular and I will never forget how calm I felt in that moment. Mount Vernon continues to be one of my favorite places in the world."

How does the Institute light the fire for the founding principles? Why is this important?

"I feel very passionate that it is our job as civic educators to keep the torch of history blazing. Not only is history exciting and funny, it is necessary to understand to be an informed and active citizen of this world. I am dedicated to educate students not only to be historians, but to reach their civic character potential. All I would like to add is how thankful I am to everyone at the BRI for including is so many terrific opportunity. I say with great confidence that I am truly a better teacher because of my continuous relationship with the BRI. I look forward to many more fun and exciting years of loving history together with you all."



Meet **STUART LEIBIGER**

*Professor and Chair of the History Department La Salle University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
PhD, MA, University of North Carolina, BA, University of Virginia*

What Institute programs have you been involved in?

“Over the past eleven years, I have presented to over thirty BRI teacher workshops in six states. I helped to write the Presidents and the Constitution curriculum, and the Heroes and Villains curriculum. I have also taught in Student Academies, and I have been the Discussion Leader for BRI Liberty Fund Colloquia.”

What does the Institute do that stands out from other organizations?

“BRI publishes the highest quality curricula, and runs the highest quality, most professional teacher developments workshops. BRI really is the “gold standard” in teacher development. Evidence for this statement includes the high number of repeat attendees at BRI programs, and the loyal following of teachers that BRI has acquired.”

What is the greatest threat to our liberty if students don't understand constitutional principles?

“The Founders recognized that an educated citizenry is vital to the survival of republican government. Learning about our nation's past helps to promote patriotism and civic-mindedness.”

Why is this important?

“Even dedicated teachers need an opportunity to become revitalized by being exposed to new content and teaching techniques. BRI programs are a necessary “perk” for under-appreciated history teachers who spend year after year down in the trenches developing an appreciation for our past among young people.”



“Educators invariably come away from BRI programs re-energized to go back into the classroom.”

-Stuart Leibiger

EDUCATING STUDENTS ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS *of* FREEDOM



A comprehensive digital course on history, government, and economics



This fall the Institute launched Documents of Freedom, our new digital textbook filled with high quality, primary-sourced based lessons on History, Government, and Economics. Written by teachers for teachers, Documents of Freedom offers interactive content across all devices completely free of charge, helping educators bring history to life for students with engaging content grounded in liberty, personal responsibility, and civic virtue.

Through a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation, Documents of Freedom provides the Institute with a unique opportunity to reach new audiences, expand our teacher network, and influence tens of thousands of new students each year. In fact, as of October 2014, more than 8,300 educators have already signed up,

putting us well on our way to 20,000 active teacher users within the first three years of launch!

Lessons include topics such as:

- Civic Virtue and Our Constitutional Republic
- Popular Sovereignty and the Consent of the Governed
- National Government, Crisis, and Civil Liberties
- The Fourteenth Amendment and Incorporation
- Challenges of American Citizenship in the new Millennium

For more information, visit www.docsoffreedom.org!

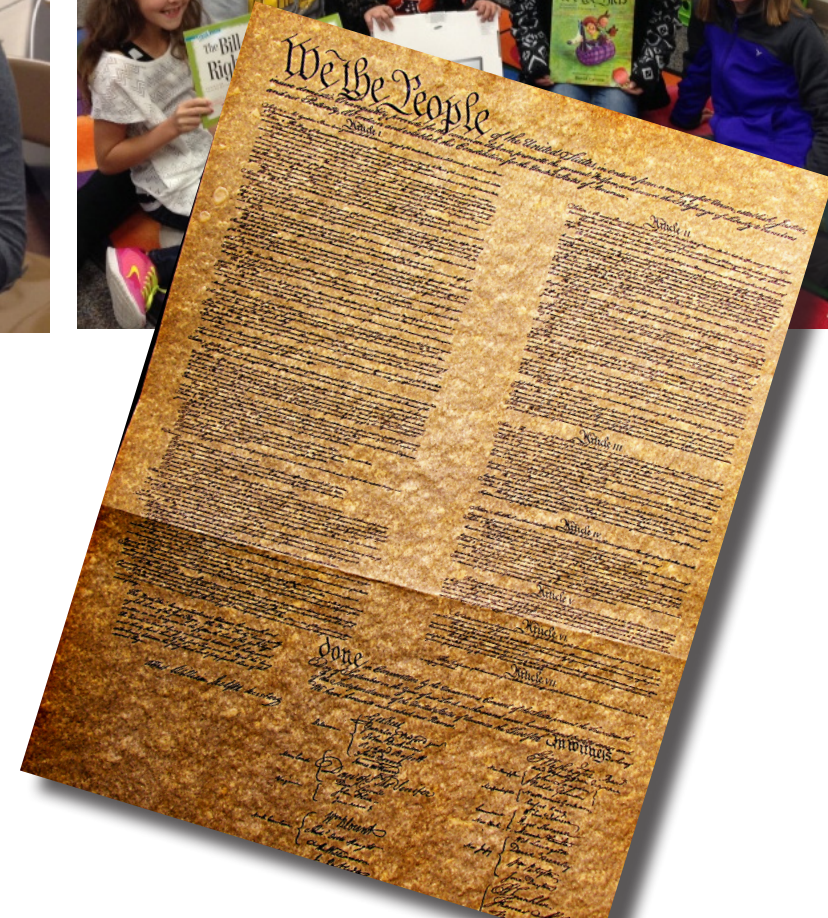
“The Documents of Freedom website is an incredible resource for new and veteran teachers alike! It provides the content of American civics and economics in a very accessible format.”

-Timothy Hall, Ph.D. Principal, NC



Donors Choose

The Institute was proud to partner with DonorsChoose, an online crowd-funding charity that connects innovative K-12 public school teachers to individual donors across the country, for what we called an “Almost Home” funding offer for Constitution Day. Teachers posted unique humanities based projects valued up to \$500 each. If selected, the Institute funded up to \$402 of the project while DonorsChoose donors then provided the rest. More than 9,000 students at 90 schools were impacted by this fantastic opportunity!





Six former teachers a combined 95 years of teaching experience

16 Bachelor's Degrees, 5 Master's Degrees, 1 JD, 1 PhD,
6 Teacher Certifications

Founding Fathers

Bill of Rights

1st, 9th, 10th



Institute Snapshot

Our Reach and Influence



3.6 Million

The number of students we have reached
with our materials since 1999.



1.4 million

The number of students reached
in 2014 alone



43,000

Teachers in our network



2,900

Students reached through Essay Contests,
Con Academy, and other STP programs



HOW WILL YOU HELP LIGHT THE FIRE OF *Liberty?*

We at the Bill of Rights Institute are grateful to the Founders who established and defended our constitutional republic. We know you are, too. Together, we can protect the freedoms bequeathed to us by previous generations of brave Americans.

By making a planned bequest to the Institute, you can declare your support of liberty and the Constitution. Your gift will ensure that our nation's youth understand the value of our rights and are equipped to defend them for generations to come.

Everyone has a finite amount of time and resources to invest in the future. By helping us to educate young people about the words and

ideas of the Founders, however, you can make an invaluable investment for generations to come and help preserve the liberties that make our country great.

Only by embracing the Constitution and Founding principles will the next generation be prepared to defend our heritage of liberty. If you have any questions about creating a legacy of freedom by establishing a planned gift or bequest, please call Rupert Munro at 703-894-1776, ext. 26, or visit www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/legacy.

Institute Team

DAVID BOBB, President

ANDY GILLETTE, Vice President of Programs

MICHELLE GRIFFES, Vice President for Education

RUPERT MUNRO, Development Officer

WHITNEY NEAL, Director of Marketing

GENNIE WESTBROOK, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development

JAFFE ABESHAUS – Database Associate

JAMES ANDERSON, Marketing Associate

CYNTHIA BADER – Professional Development Instructor

KIRK HIGGINS, Education Associate

LUKE RIPP – Student Outreach Manager

ABBY SCHULTZ – Administrative Assistant

TONY WILLIAMS – Professional Development Instructor

MARIBEL WONG – Student Programs Associate

KYRSTEN YORK – Grants Manager

OUR MISSION

The Bill of Rights Institute's mission is to educate young people about the words and ideas of America's Founders, the liberties guaranteed in our Founding documents, and how our Founding principles continue to affect and shape a free society.



200 North Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203
www.BillofRightsInstitute.org