

UCLA/IDEA

UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education and Access

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 6TH

Los Angeles, August 5, 2004

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UCLA/IDEA Teams Up With Urban Youth to Feature Research About Civic Participation and Education in Los Angeles Communities

LOS ANGELES – UCLA's Institute for Democracy Education and Access (IDEA) will host its 6th Annual Colloquium on Friday, August 6th, featuring research reports and mini-documentaries by 25 high school students from Los Angeles on youth civic participation.

These presentations document in colorful ways how young people in Los Angeles view local and national politics—providing valuable insights on the potential youth vote in November 2004. Although many of them are too young to vote themselves, the students are already focused on ways they can begin to make a difference in their communities. The students' presentations also address the quality of civic education in Los Angeles-area public schools and community organizations. Such efforts can guide policy makers, educators, and community members about how to provide young people with the opportunities to participate vigorously in Los Angeles civic life.

During their six-week summer program at UCLA, the high school students (from such schools as Crenshaw, San Fernando, and Garfield) met with California's top civil rights attorneys, elected officials, activists and political artists. They traveled to four different communities: East LA, Watts, Crenshaw, and Santa Monica—to interview students, distribute a youth survey on civic participation, and meet with educators and local community activists.

The seminar is sponsored by UCLA/IDEA and co-taught by Dr. John Rogers of UCLA and Dr. Ernest Morrell of Michigan State University. Over the past six years, the work of this seminar has been featured on CNN, National Public Radio, several major print media and IDEA's on-line journal, *Teaching to Change LA*.

The event will be held at UCLA's Faculty Center. Guests will be welcome at 9:30 and presentations begin at 10 a.m.

Please visit <http://tcla.gseis.ucla.edu/democracy/students/labi.html>. For more information on IDEA, please visit www.idea.gseis.ucla.edu.

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Note to assignment editors/producers: Spanish-speaking students, teachers and IDEA representatives will be available for interviews.