



*For immediate release
February 17, 2012*

Topeka, Kansas - Kids Voting USA (KVUSA) is pleased to announce the recipient of the Educator of the Year award. This award is given to the educator who creatively implements the vital classroom component of the program and also embodies the spirit of Kids Voting USA. This educator motivates students to be civically active through both teaching and example.

The Educator of the Year is Robert Lanthorn from Columbus, Ohio. Over the years, Robert has shown an increasing understanding of the KVUSA curriculum as well as the goals the organization has in creating a more civically engaged youth. Lanthorn serves as the Hamilton Local School District liaison to Kids Voting Central Ohio. He is someone who truly cares about his students' success and civic education.

Kids Voting USA recognizes one educator per month throughout the year. At the end of the year, KVUSA hosted a facebook contest where the public chose the top three Educator of the Month finalists. Following this process, a selection committee reviewed the materials about the three finalists and made their selection.

The selection committee stated, "the fact Robert had 83% of the high school voting in our mock election is just plain amazing. It means his fellow teachers respect him a great deal and so do the students. He has used his respect from colleagues in a very positive way with Kids Voting".

Diana Carlin, chairman of the KVUSA board also commended Mr. Lanthorn: "We are impressed with Mr. Lanthorn's passion for sharing the importance of voting and civic engagement with his students. Out of a group of outstanding teachers who embody the spirit of Kids Voting, Mr. Lanthorn clearly is deserving of this special recognition."

Lanthorn wins all expenses paid trip to KVUSA's 20th Anniversary fundraising luncheon and "Engaging Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Civic Leadership" Symposium. The events will be held on the morning of March 29th in Washington D.C. in the Reagan International Rotunda. Tickets are on sale for the luncheon for \$125. Headlining the event is Mr. Mike McCurry, the press secretary for the Bill Clinton administration. For more information about this award, symposium and luncheon, please visit <http://kidsvotingusa.org/EYT2012/>.

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Kids Voting USA is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to secure the future of democracy by preparing young people to be educated, engaged citizens. KVUSA operates through a national network of community-based affiliates that partner with schools and election officials to offer more than four million K-12 students a wide range of opportunities for civic learning. For more information, visit www.kidsvotingusa.org.

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