



## South Carolina Council for the Social Studies Social Studies Program of Excellence Awards



South Carolina Council for the Social Studies honors annually the outstanding performance of teachers, college professors, and other worthy individuals and programs that work to promote quality social studies in the Palmetto State.

### Purpose:

To identify and provide recognition for outstanding social studies programs currently being implemented in the Palmetto State and to encourage the growth and development of innovative and effective programs in the social studies.

### Eligibility:

- A social studies program currently being implemented in South Carolina
- A Program of outstanding quality based on a curriculum framework consistent with the South Carolina Social Studies Curriculum Standards and the NCSS Curriculum Standards for Social Studies or the revised NCSS Standards for the Preparation of Social Studies Teachers.
- A complete social studies program (not single courses or parts of programs), which encourages articulation, balance of content, a variety of teaching strategies, and the involvement of teachers, students, and the community.

### Categories of Entry:

1. District Social Studies Program: district-wide at the elementary school, middle school/junior high, senior high, or K–12 levels
2. Elementary School Social Studies Program: K–6; may be a segment of an elementary program, e.g., primary K–3, intermediate 3–6. Middle School/Junior High School Social Studies Program: may be 5–7, 6–9, 6–8, etc. Senior High School Social Studies Program: may be 9–12, 10–12, etc.
3. Social Studies Teacher Education Program: may be district staff development or preservice training at college/university level.
4. Non-commercial organizations, agencies, or institutions in ongoing association with numbers listed above.

### Criteria:

#### 1. The Teacher

An exemplary social studies program should involve social studies teachers who:

- Evidence both scholarship and expertise in the curriculum they teach.
- Evidence participation in all aspects of the development of this curriculum, including setting goals and objectives as well as program development, implementation, evaluation, and revision.
- Apply sound instructional theory and practice in the implementation of the program.

#### 2. The Curriculum

An exemplary social studies program should include a social studies curriculum that:

- Is guided by thoughtfully selected as well as clearly stated and defined goals and objectives.
- Is based on sound scholarship from the content areas relative to the social studies.
- Sets high expectations for students and uses a variety of systematic and valid measures to evaluate student performance.
- Relates appropriately to the age, maturity, interests, and needs of the students for whom it is designed.
- Incorporates effective instructional strategies and techniques that engage students directly and actively in the learning process both in and out of the classroom.
- Provides valid evidence that the outcome of the program is consistent with the stated goals and objectives.
- Is consistent with the ten thematic strands identified by NCSS Curriculum Standards for Social Studies.

### 3. The Students

An exemplary social studies program should engage social studies students in:

- The critical examination of significant content, issues, and events from a variety of perspectives.
- Focused systematic observations, comprehensive decision-making, and active participation in their school, community, and world.
- Understanding democratic principles and participation in the democratic process.

#### Nomination Requirements:

Original copy of the following materials (materials must be bound with labeled subject dividers):

- Cover page (see attached)
- Abstract of program, maximum 75 words (see attached)
- Brief description of the program that emphasizes:
  - (a) how the program meets each of the stated “criteria” for a Social Studies Programs of Excellence:
    - The Teacher (maximum 1 page)
    - The Curriculum (maximum 3 pages), and
    - The Students (maximum 1 page); and
  - (b) what makes the program innovative and unique (maximum 1 page).
- Letter of support from principal, college dean, or other on-site program supervisor.
- Letter of support from the individual responsible for coordinating the social studies curriculum and programs for the school district or higher education institution (this letter should verify that the program is currently being implemented).
- Letter from a classroom teacher or teacher educator who participates in the program.
- Program curriculum document that describes goals and objectives, teaching strategies, assessments, and other appropriate information about program implementation.
- Supporting documentation (fifteen documents maximum. No document should exceed five pages).

#### Submission Requirements: (six copies of each)

- Program proposal
- Program abstract
- Cover page (including program title, applicant name, school name, address and phone, and home address and phone).
- The committee will consider composition, spelling, grammar, etc. in the evaluation process.

Review the contents of your submission carefully! Nomination materials that are incomplete or that do not meet the established criteria will not be considered. The selection committee reserves the right to remove from consideration any application that fails to meet all submission requirements.

**Submission Deadline: Postmarked by May 15 of every year.**

**Send to: Social Studies Programs of Excellence Award Subcommittee  
SCCSS  
P O Box 11746  
Columbia, SC 29211-1746**

South Carolina Council for the Social Studies  
Social Studies Program of Excellence Awards



I wish to nominate the following Social Studies program:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
School Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
School Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

As the nominator, I have prepared a nomination packet that includes the nominee's vita/professional resume; a narrative of the nominee's accomplishments (not more than five pages); supporting documentation (not more than ten pages); and videotape or teaching portfolio.

Signature of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_ Date Prepared \_\_\_\_\_

Social Studies Program of Excellence Award  
Abstract of Program

