



# Summer at City Hall: Preparing Future Civic Leaders

**CSBA Annual Education Conference  
Institute for Local Government  
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**ILG is the non-profit  
research and education  
affiliate of**



**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*

# Panelists

- Bina Lefkovitz, Consultant, ILG
- Jessie Ryan, Board Member, Sacramento City Unified School District
- Jay Schenirer, City Council Member, City of Sacramento
- Preet Didbal, City Council Member, Yuba City

# Governments Engaging Youth

## Objective:

Communities and schools collaborate to prepare students for civic life and college/career readiness.



*Elk Grove youth participating as City Attorney, City Manager and City Clerk*

# Governments Engaging Youth

- **Strategy:** Create strong partnerships between school districts and local government entities to offer students opportunities to gain 21st century work skills, build interest in public service careers, provide tools to become civically aware and engaged and bring authentic youth voice to local government issues.
- **Partners:** Sacramento County Office of Education, National Academy Foundation, Linked Learning Alliance, Council for Strong America

# Video Yuba City SACH



<http://www.actionnewsnow.com/news/politicians-of-tomorrow-got-some-practice-in-yuba-city-hall/>

# Governments Engaging Youth – Program Goals

- Create a high school to career pipeline to ensure a more diverse and prepared public sector workforce.
- Students learn civic and 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce skills.
- Students learn how to become active citizens.
- Strengthen school and city partnership.
- Strengthen intergenerational relationships and improve adult knowledge of youth.

# Why Focus on Civic Ready?

139th

8%

50%



# Benefits of Civic Engagement

- Vote
- Connected to school
- Avoid risky behaviors
- Volunteer and work on community issues
- More confident in critical skills

# Aligning Civics with College and Career Readiness

- District's Graduate Profile includes college, career and civic skills
- Civic focused HS Career Pathways
- Embedding civics in HS pathway programs of study and PBL
- Action Civic sites
- New Social Study standards
- Summer of Service

# Why Partner With Municipal Governments?

- WIF Schools
  - WBL experiences
  - More Engaging Curriculum/Instruction
  - More Supports for Our Schools
  
- WIF Municipal Governments:
  - Workforce Needs
  - Citizen Engagement
  - Youth Perspective on Community Issues

# Summer at City Hall

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City of Sacramento Model  
Councilmember Jay Schenirer

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# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

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- 6 weeks
  - 8AM–12PM: Instruction by certificated teacher
  - 1PM–5PM: Internships
  - Breakfast and lunch provided
  - Weekly bus passes provided
  - \$300 stipend for 36-hour internship
  - 5 high school credits earned
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# CURRICULUM

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- Week 1 - 21st Century Workforce Skill Development
  - Week 2 - What it means to be an Active Citizen
  - Week 3 - Local Government Basics
  - Week 4 – Advocacy -Issue ID and Research
  - Week 5 – Advocacy continued & Financial Literacy/Goal Setting /College Exploration
  - Week 6 – Present Advocacy project to Panel of Council members
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# INTERNSHIPS

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- City Council Offices
  - City Attorney
  - City Clerk
  - Teen Services
  - Human Resources
  - Fire Department
  - Police Department
  - Revenue Division
  - Crocker Art Museum
  - Business Partnerships
  - Regional Transit
  - Office of Congresswoman Matsui
  - Bank of America
  - School District Office(s)
  - Engineering
  - NextEd
  - Economic Development Department
  - Animal Care
  - Recycling & Solid Waste Division
  - Sacramento Tree Foundation
  - Parking Division
  - Sacramento Employment & Training Agency (SETA)
  - Sacramento Zoo
  - Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency
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# LAUNCHPATH: A Web Based System

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- Matches internship opportunities with students
  - Enables students to develop resumes
  - Enables students to record skills and gain badges
  - Reduces administrative burden of processing student applications
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# ADVOCACY PROJECT

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- Purpose: To develop student civic leaders who can effect direct change in their community.
  - Structure:
    - Student led group projects organized by City Council Districts
    - Students ID and research problems, develop and advocate a solution
    - Students present recommendations to officials from the City, County, and School Districts
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# RETURNING YOUTH

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Several students return after their participation in the program to act as mentors and team building facilitators for the next class of Summer at City Hall students.



# IMPACT ON YOUTH

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNbvDaNI8\\_U&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNbvDaNI8_U&feature=youtu.be)

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# PROGRAM OUTCOMES

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## Skills and Knowledge Acquired by Students:

- Financial literacy
- Research and advocacy
- Local government and citizenship
- Workforce readiness
- Communication
- Professionalism
- How to use public transit
- Work environment
- Importance of networking

## Other Outcomes:

- Become interested in public service careers
  - Build relationships with adults
  - Identify ways students can impact their community
  - Become aware of voting process and registration rules
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# ADULT OUTCOMES

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Adults report:

- Better understanding needs/perspectives of youth
  - Seeing youth as resources
  - Stronger interest in hiring youth from the community
  - Teachers better understand city government
  - Teachers learn inquiry based SL method
  - City/schools experience positive relationships
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# Yuba City

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**Preet Didbal**  
Council Member  
Yuba City

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# Summer at City Hall

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- City Council Member Champion.
  - A partnership of City of Yuba City with Yuba City Unified School District, Sutter County Superintendent of Schools and Northern California STREAM Pathways Consortium Grant Funds.
  - Planning for project: a collaboration between City Council and City staff with schools and STREAM Board members.
  - Expanding to the Region 2017
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# Program Components

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- Started program in summer 2016.
- 18 students.
- 3 week program.
- 8:30AM – 3:00PM.
- Classroom instruction at City Hall.
- 2 half days of job shadows.
- Mock council meeting.
- Department tours/guest speakers.



# Curriculum

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- Intro to local government
  - Role of the City Council
  - State Capitol visit
  - What it means to be an active citizen
  - Job ready skills
  - Advocacy
  - Mock Council meeting
  - Job shadow
  - Court tour
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# Job Shadow Agencies

- Animal Control Officer
- Animal Control Tech
- Planning Director
- Code Enforcement Officer
- HR Director
- HR Analyst
- Finance Manager
- HR Director
- Economic Development Manager
- Park Maintenance
- Public Works Street Crew
- Public Works Lab Technician
- Fire Fighter
- Fire Engineer
- IT Tech
- Parks & Rec Supervisor
- Admin Assistant
- City Clerk
- Police Office
- Community Services Officer

# BENEFITS/SUCCESSSES OF SACH

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- Partnerships with Cities and Schools to leverage resources, expand student learning, solve city issues
  - Municipal staff experience being a mentor
  - City expands youth engagement opportunities
  - Teachers learn about municipal government
  - Diverse students gain life changing experiences, skills and opportunities to create new diverse relationships & find positive ways to resolve differences
  - Students learn to be active citizens while also getting exposure to public service careers
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# CHALLENGES

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- Small cities have limited capacity and facilities
  - Time needed to partner
  - Learning each others' constraints/resources
  - Having enough support for kids who struggle
  - Communication/role clarity
  - Program expansion to meet the need
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# LESSONS LEARNED/ADVICE

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- Start planning early
  - Have a convening entity, but keep decision making and program ownership a partnership
  - Communication/clarify roles. Take time to learn each others language and processes
  - Be intentional about balancing civic engagement goals to WBL goals
  - Need committed partners/champion on both sides willing to contribute what they can
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# GEY Statewide Effort

- Toolkit
- Networking meetings for sites
- Seeking ways to engage leaders around the state about the value and opportunity of GEY
- Upcoming: Community of Practice, Clarifying Core Civic and 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies, Digital Badging
- Identifying models of GEY around the state
- Seeking new sites to implement tailored GEY program

# ILG Resources/Contact

## **Governments Engaging Youth**

[www.ca-ilg.org/GovernmentsEngagingYouth](http://www.ca-ilg.org/GovernmentsEngagingYouth)

## **Contacts:**

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# Q & A

