OVERALL CLASS CHANGE MAKER – HIGH SCHOOL

Water Pollution in the Bay Area, Lincoln High School
Teacher – Valerie Ziegler & Bea Tesorero
Democracy Coaches – Jenny Takashima & Lili Lin (University of San Francisco)

Students at Abraham Lincoln High School in the San Francisco Unified School District recognized the disastrous impact of water waste and pollution on the Bay Area. Wanting to tackle the issue from numerous angles, the class worked on several school and neighborhood-based initiatives. Students organized a beach clean-up day, during which they collected and compiled data about the kind of litter they found. The class lobbied for their school to participate in SF Water’s Adopt-A-Drain program for storm drains near their campus. In collaboration with Supervisor Katy Tang’s office, students also supported the introduction of legislation that would ban plastic straws in San Francisco.

Runner-Up:
Homeless Rights, Berkeley High School
Teacher - Susan Warren
Democracy Coach - Nathan Fillingim-Selk (UC Berkeley)

OVERALL CLASS CHANGE MAKER – MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sexual Assault and Harassment in San Francisco, Gateway Middle School
Teacher – Lucy Hilarides
Democracy Coaches – Daisy Carcamo & Chalyna Lazo (San Francisco State University)

Students met with Julia Weber, a consultant for the (now concluded) San Francisco's Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force, to learn about their work and recommendations, and consider continued improvements to health curriculum for SFUSD middle and high schools. The class organized to create a school-based task force, responsible for integrating sexual assault education into the school’s current health curriculum.

Runner-Up:
Affordable Housing, Creative Arts Charter School
Teacher – Genevieve Coady
Democracy Coach – Hannah Do (University of San Francisco)
GRASSROOTS CHANGE AWARD: Students can clearly and compellingly articulate why their focus issue matters to them and matters to their community.

Immigration and Deportation in the Bay Area
REALM High School, English Language Development
Teacher – Casey McAlduff

Runner-Up:
Gun Violence Restraining Orders, Gateway Middle School
Teacher – Lucy Hilarides
Democracy Coaches – Chris Filipko & Aria Miller (University of San Francisco)

SYSTEMIC IMPACT AWARD: Students can provide logical and evidence-based reasoning to explain how their project goal addresses the systematic root cause(s) of their issue.

Gun Control
Park Day School, 8th Grade Social Studies
Teacher – Andrew Risinger
Democracy Coaches – Hope Huber & Harry Stewart (St. Mary’s College)

Runner-Up:
Homeless Foster Youth in San Francisco, Gateway Middle Colen
Teacher – Elizabeth Colen
Democracy Coach – Dmitra Lucas (San Francisco State University)

COLLABORATION & DIVERSITY AWARD: Students have engaged a variety of local community members in their work and can clearly explain why each has a stake in the issue.

Homeless Shelters in Berkeley
Berkeley High School, 12th Grade Government
Teacher – Susan Warren
Democracy Coaches – Ella Smith & Calvin Nguyen (UC Berkeley)

Runner-Up:
Homeless Rights, Berkeley High School
Teacher - Susan Warren
Democracy Coach - Nathan Fillingim-Selk (UC Berkeley)
ACTION AWARD: Students have utilized a variety of tactics to engage their targets and have shown considerable thoughtfulness and attention to quality in completing their tactics.

Youth Suicide Prevention
Presidio Middle School, 8th Grade US History
Teacher – Jonathan Lewallen
Democracy Coaches – Anna Semendyayeva, Nam Nguyen, & Hailey Desprez (University of San Francisco)

Runner-Up:
Achievement Gap in Berkeley Schools, Berkeley High School
Teacher – Robin Vegt
Democracy Coach – Laura Edwards & Rebecca Forbes (UC Berkeley)

OPEN-MINDEDNESS AWARD: Students were able to thoughtfully reflect on the GC process and experience, and connecting it to the future.

Youth Homelessness
Berkeley High School, 12th Grade Government
Teacher – Robin Vegt
Democracy Coaches – Aaron Aranza & Melissa Debret (UC Berkeley)

Runner-Up:
Domestic Violence, REALM High School
Teacher – Ryan Tong
Democracy Coach – Lupita Garcia (University of San Francisco)

STUDENT CHOICE AWARD: Students’ project was a crowd favorite and chosen as a top project by their peers.

Know Your Rights Education
Urban Promise Academy, 8th Grade US History
Teacher – Sandra Payne
Democracy Coach – Eva Flores (Mills College)

Runner-Up:
Gun Violence & Campus Safety, Berkeley High School
Teacher – Deb Godner
Democracy Coaches – Jordan O’Rourk & Yasamine Durali (UC Berkeley)