

Since 2004, with the support of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Barat Education Foundation [BEF] has delivered Our American Voice[®], a model civics program for elementary and middle schools that has impacted more than 3,000 students of diverse backgrounds in metropolitan Chicago and across the State. OAV builds the character and competencies required for youth to be informed 21st century citizens capable of critical thinking and effective leadership.

- Give your students a voice and guide them as they take on a local issue
- Deepen your own understanding and teaching skills in the area of civics
- Access Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources archives and experts
- Collaborate with a community of civically engaged educators and students
- Earn a stipend up to \$3000 as you deliver the program and participate in PD



"Our American Voice is the only innovative program in the United States that I'm aware of that provides elementary and middle school students with the unique and critical opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the government and political system and to provide a pathway for civic engagement for young citizens. Political knowledge and civic engagement is central to the achievement of civic responsibility."

**ALAN R. GITELSON, PH.D., PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, FREQUENT CONTRIBUTOR ON NPR**



"OAV helps students to learn citizenship, but also makes them aware of their impact on their community. It lets them realize they have a voice, their actions matter.... It gives them the power and the awareness to make the community a better place." **LISA BETH LOVERO, OAV TEACHER
PERSHING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Berwyn IL**



"OAV had a great impact on my life because.... I am more aware about issues in my community and what I can do to help solve them." "It made me think I am a leader."

OAV STUDENTS

Learn More and Become an OAV civic-minded educator:

- Visit ouramericanvoice.org
- Contact us at (847) 574-2465 or E-mail us at info@thebaratfoundation.org

OUR AMERICAN VOICE[®] (OAV) is a project-based Civics learning initiative that develops leadership, problem solving, critical thinking skills. OAV encourages 4th-high school students to collaborate as they learn the fundamentals of American democracy and work

Barat Education Foundation 847-574-2455

www.thebaratfoundation.org www.ouramericanvoice.org