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The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy received a \$10,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation to train social studies teachers to use web-based tools to increase the civic knowledge of students in grades K-12.

"Our Democracy works best when we have an interested, informed and responsive citizenry," said William J. Hughes, the former ambassador to Panama and a 10-term congressman for whom the center is named.

"Putting basic civics back into our classrooms and encouraging students to better understand and appreciate the Democratic process is a good start," Hughes said. "I want to salute Verizon for its commitment to this worthy goal."

The program is a partnership between the Hughes Center and Stockton College's Southern Regional Institute & Educational Technology Training Center (SRI&ETTC).

The goal of iCivics at Stockton is to provide social studies teachers with training to use the educational activities of iCivics.org in their classrooms. The SRI&ETTC, which offers professional development courses to preK-12 teachers and other education professionals, will organize and conduct training sessions in a fully equipped facility with classrooms and computer labs. The SRI&ETTC has an educational network and a consortium of 80 organizations, of which 68 are school districts throughout southern New Jersey. This encompasses 200 schools, more than 7,500

Jersey," said Dean Claudine Keenan, of Stockton's School of Education.

The SRI&ETTC expects to train 200 teachers during a total of six full-day workshops: two each for teachers from high schools, middle schools and elementary schools. Each workshop will begin with training on the use of the iCivics website followed by a session on how to integrate civics and this website into classroom lessons. School districts in the consortium will be notified when registration is open.

"We plan to build a cadre of teachers that will be able to take the information back to their districts and lead efforts to integrate civics into the social studies curriculum," said Patricia Weeks, director of the SRI&ETTC in the School of Education.

