



## Executive Summary

### ***Building a Better America through Core Democratic Values: An Educational Initiative for Social Studies Students in Grades 4, 5, 8, and 11***

**International Civil Rights Center & Museum (ICRCM)**—a historic landmark, exhibiting and collecting institution, and educational service organization—promotes an understanding of the struggles for equality, justice, and freedom in the United States and across the world. **ICRCM**, located in the former F.W. Woolworth building, was the site of the 1960 lunch counter sit-in protest against racially segregated eating accommodations. The 1960 Greensboro sit-ins reignited the civil rights movement that would bring an end to “Jim Crow” restrictions.

One set of stories we convey in our 16-gallery interactive exhibition, *The Battlegrounds*, is the role that members of the community played in bringing about social change. Citizens, both black and white, believed in the righteousness of their struggle. They wanted an America to be a land of opportunity for everyone without restrictions based on race.

### ***Building a Better America through Core Democratic Values (The Key Components)***

***Educational Fieldtrips – To the Civil Rights Museum.*** At the very time that school districts are cutting back on providing educational experiences that require travel to vital cultural and historic sites that are part of the state's (and indeed the nation's) history, we will bring as many as 112,000 social studies students in grades 4, 5, 8, and 11 from across the state to explore ICRCM's state of the art 16-gallery experience, *The Battlegrounds*. This 15,000 square foot exhibition—an engaging journey through American civil rights history—features audio/video narratives, photographs, artifacts, vintage newsreel footage, video reenactments, and interactive components that document, with sensitivity, efforts to dismantle racial segregation *via* non-violent struggles for social change.

***Lesson Plans prepared by current Educators.*** More than forty (40) lesson plans were written by educators in the primary and secondary educational arenas to reinforce an understanding of core democratic values—e.g. liberty, the right to vote, equal protection under the law, and others—conveyed in ***The Battlegrounds***. In fact the lesson plans are designed as pre-visitation classroom exercises, onsite Museum activities following the tours, and post-visitation classroom learning experiences. ICRCM curriculum materials align with parameters set forth in North Carolina’s Essential Standards for Social Studies and Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies.

***Teacher Training.*** ICRCM will offer onsite seminars as well as webinars to ensure effective implementation of the lesson plans. This training, available for Continuing Education Units (CEUs), starts in summer of 2018.

***Recognition of Support.*** You may help to underwrite admission fees for our students. Each donor’s name will appear on: the ICRCM website and the Annual Report.

***Support of Museum’s Fund-raising Efforts.*** All funds donated to this program will be considered as a triple benefit to the ICRCM. All funds will be used to support the operations of the Museum 100%, which will help the institution maintain self-sufficiency. Additionally, funds will benefit students in grades, 4, 5, 8 and 11 as we exercise the Mission of the Museum and educate students on social justice issues.

***What the State Superintendent has said about “Building a Better America ...”***  
“In order for our students to strive for equality in society, we must equip them with the tools to do so. ***Building America through Core Democratic Values*** will expose them to communication skills and strategies needed to communicate with their peers, and with the increasingly diverse citizenry in our state and nation. Inspired by knowledge and outfitted with strategies, our students will be prepared to lead their communities, our state, and our nation down a path of greater equality.”

June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed D  
State Superintendant  
North Carolina

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