



DENISE W. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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**SECRETARY MERRILL TO PRESENT THE
CIVIC LIFE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES OF STATE
AWARD**

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill will present the Civic Life Project with the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Medallion Award for its promotion of good citizenship using dynamic models of civic education through video storytelling.

The award will be presented tonight at the Civic Life Youth Film Challenge at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center in Hartford.

Secretary Merrill said, “The Civic Life Project is a pioneering program that enlightens both its viewers as well as its student filmmakers. Fostering a citizenry that is engaged in our democracy is one of the great challenges of our time and the Civic Life Project continues to find new ways to educate students and inform people about the issues affecting us all.”

Dominique Lasseur, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Civic Life Project, said, “The Civic Life Project and the Youth Film Challenge are about civics the way the Founding Fathers practiced it—with thoughtful dialogue and the interplay of ideas. But there’s one big twist—it’s being produced by kids. Whether you’re exhausted or energized by politics right now, seeing young people use their voices and participate in dialogues about public issues is sure to restore your faith in the future of our democracy.”

The seven-year-old Civic Life Project brings video storytelling to classrooms and communities, where young people learn the tools they need to express their ideas and how to collaborate to discover new perspectives. Students develop a sense of agency and an urgency to participate in civic life.

This year, young people throughout the state produced short form documentary films on the 2016 elections. Those films will be screened tonight at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center in Downtown Hartford, where the NASS Medallion Award will be presented.

More than 300 students have participated in the program since its inception and its curriculum has been adopted by several Connecticut schools.

The NASS Medallion Award was created to honor individuals, groups or organizations with an established record of promoting the goals of the National Association of Secretaries of State. In particular, it emphasizes contributions to one or more of the six following areas: elections, specifically voter education and participation; civic education; service to state government, in particular on the work of the office of the Secretary of State and a commitment to giving.