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Joshua Ortiz HAS BEEN NAMED A MEMBER OF THE ICIVICS EQUITY IN CIVICS YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The national program has engaged a select group of students from across the country to both help explore how civic education can become more relevant to all American youth and to build their own civic leadership skills

Boston, Massachusetts, October 20,2020 -- **Joshua Ortiz** a student at Weston High school. **Joshua Ortiz**, has been selected as a member of the inaugural Equity in Civics Youth Fellowship, a year-long program that will engage high school students from across the country to both explore how to make civics more inclusive and relevant to Americans of all backgrounds and to become civic leaders.

Funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the fellowship is part of a broader initiative of iCivics to explore the challenges that civic education has when it comes to providing relevant and equitable civics. The fellowship gives students the opportunity to work with experts in civic engagement, advocacy, social and traditional media, and digital literacy to help build leadership and communication skills so that they can become student ambassadors for equity in civic education.

Throughout the course of the 2020-2021 school year, the fellows will participate in virtual workshops designed to prepare students to tell their stories about equity in civics in compelling ways. By the close of the program, fellows are expected to launch a national student-led social media campaign, engage in group discussions on equity, civic education, civic engagement, produce written pieces and media projects on equity in civics, and collaborate on a virtual showcase on student voice.

In addition, fellows will contribute their perspectives to other initiatives lead by iCivics. Students will engage with the CivXNow Coalition, a national cross-partisan coalition of over 100 organizations focused on improving our nation's K-12 in and out-of-school civic education, and consult with the Educating for American Democracy initiative - a nonpartisan effort to produce a roadmap for integrating history and civic education for all learners.

Joshua Ortiz is one of 22 fellows. Selected students represent major urban centers on the east and west coasts, rural communities, suburban communities, and a crosssection of socioeconomic and racial backgrounds. Applicants were nominated by teachers and mentors for the program and then submitted a self-assessment and essay for consideration.

Joshua Ortiz is a 11th grade student from Hyde Park Boston. He is lucky to be going to one of the most equipped school districts(Weston). Joshua is interested in things like politics, history and aviation. His goal is to become a fighter pilot in the U.S Navy, he is working to achieve this goal through the Civil Air Patrol. The political and social issues that intrigue Joshua the most is, Economic disparities, economic theory, Justice system, gun laws and many more topics.

"I joined this program because I am aware that laws and acts that are passed by the government will affect me in the long term, it's not going to affect Congress men and women that have been in power since the late 90s and early 2000s. Through this program I hope i am able to influence my fellow teens to get involved in civics so they can help push for legislation that they want to see in their America, no the governments or the wealthy's America but our America"

Joshua Ortiz and the other 21 fellows participated in a weekend series of virtual meetings and workshops that kicked off the fellowship, including an inspirational session with guest speaker Education Evangelist, Jaime Casap, formerly from Google.

"We've witnessed this year, and throughout history, the impact of student voice and student civic engagement. This program is designed to equip students with the skills they need to help them communicate their civic passions effectively." Amber Coleman-Mortley, iCivics Director of Social Engagement and Fellowship Program Director.

Join students when they launch their #CivicsForUS social media campaign on Monday, March 8th, 2021.

About iCivics

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor founded iCivics in 2009 to transform the field through innovative, free educational video games and lessons that teach students to be knowledgeable, curious, and engaged in civic life. Today, iCivics is the nation's largest provider of civic education curriculum, with our resources used by over 100,000 educators and more than 6.25 million students each year nationwide. Visit www.icivics.org to learn more.