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### **Bill of Rights Institute Educated Students Achieve Higher Scores on Civic Knowledge Survey**

On a Kansas-wide assessment of middle and high school students' civic knowledge and attitudes, students educated by teachers who attended professional development programs offered by the Bill of Rights Institute performed better than students of teachers who had not attended one of the organization's programs. The survey was funded by a grant from the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation.

The Bill of Rights Institute, an educational non-profit organization located in Arlington, VA., worked with an independent evaluator, Social Dynamics, LLC., to conduct a survey of the civic knowledge of Kansas students. More than 900 students participated in the Kansas survey.

"The analysis of survey items showed a statistically significant difference in student knowledge among students in classrooms whose teachers had some experience with Bill of Rights Institute programs," said Douglas Klayman, CEO of Social Dynamics, LLC.

More than 86 percent of students whose teachers attended Bill of Rights Institute programs knew that the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. Fifty-five percent of these students were able to correctly name three rights protected by the Bill of Rights, while only 27 percent of control students could correctly name three rights.

Klayman notes, "Teachers who participated in Bill of Rights Institute programs are better prepared to teach their students and develop lesson plans on constitutional principles and civic values."

The results also show that while significant progress has been made, more progress is needed toward increasing civic knowledge among students. Since bringing its programs to Kansas in 2005, the Bill of Rights Institute has conducted 32 programs in Kansas, with 685 participants. The organization continues to bring teacher seminars to Kansas, with seminars scheduled for teachers in the Wichita and Lawrence areas this spring.

The Bill of Rights Institute's mission is to educate young people about our country's Founding principles through programs that teach the words and ideas of the Founders; liberties and freedoms guaranteed in our Founding documents; and how American's Founding principles continue to affect and shape a free society. To learn more, visit [www.BillofRightsInstitute.org](http://www.BillofRightsInstitute.org).

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### **About the Bill of Rights Institute**

*Founded in 1999, the Bill of Rights Institute is a nonprofit education organization. The mission of the Bill of Rights Institute is to educate young people about the words and ideas of America's Founders, the liberties guaranteed in our Founding documents, and how our Founding principles continue to affect and shape a free society.*

### **About the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation**

*Established in 1952, the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation focuses its resources on not-for-profit organizations in Kansas that significantly enhance the state's quality of life through arts and arts education, environmental stewardship, human services, enablement of at-risk youth, and education. The foundation is named for Fred C. Koch (1900-1967), who co-founded what is now Koch Industries, Inc., and his wife, Mary R. Koch (1907-1990). More information can be found at [www.fmkfoundation.org](http://www.fmkfoundation.org).*