NSCAP Student Civic Leadership Academy
First Literacy Grant, 2019
Teaching Team

Kate Harrington
- Level 4 ESOL teacher
- Academic and Career Advisor

Karen Blanchard
- Level 1 ESOL Teacher

Jessica Cardin
- Level 3 ESOL Teacher
- In-house Technology Expert
Curriculum

Format:
- Series of 5 “Lunch and Learn” workshops spread throughout the academic year
- Field trip to Immigrants’ Day at the State House (March 4, 2019)
Curriculum

Session 1:
- “Advocacy 101”
- Students met a NSCAP graduate who has become deeply involved in community advocacy work
- Students discussed and brainstormed a list of issues relevant to their communities
Session 2:

- “Understand and Educate”
- Students met with Sen. Brendan Crighton to learn about the legislative process
- Students researched proposed legislation and related it to their daily lives
- Students voted to select the most relevant topics
Curriculum

Session 3:

- Field Trip to Immigrants’ Day at the State House!
Session 4:

- Letter Writing
- Students learned the format of a business letter
- Students used an online tool to identify their own local representatives
- Students wrote letters to their representatives to express their opinions and request action on issues
Session 5:
- Discrimination Workshop
- Guest speaker from MCAD informed students on how to identify and respond to issues of discrimination
Session 6:

- Year in Review
- Students gathered photos and documents from Civic Leadership Academy sessions
- Students worked with Jessica to create a link on program’s Weebly page
Program Highlights
Community Advocate: Vilma Zomosa
Student Perspective: Raquel Valero
Reseaching Important Issues
Meeting Senator Crighton
Immigrants’ Day at the State House
Takeaways

What surprised us and what we learned
Challenges

- Timing
- Commitment and Attendance
- Field Trip: Weather!
Successes

- Students were grateful for the opportunity to discuss “burning” issues
- Students of ALL LEVELS felt empowered because they were able to:
  - Engage with government representatives
  - Write professional sounding letters
  - Create a webpage
  - Teach each other how to advocate for themselves and others
Final Word: Raquel Valero