Classroom Civics Activity - Adult Education Advocacy

Develop an advocacy campaign for this year. Calendar times when you and your students will reach out to legislators. States with strong local advocacy programs generally plan on making at least six contacts with their state legislators throughout the year. It is best when 80% of those contacts come from students.

Some things you might choose to do:

1. Invite legislators to talk to students
2. Have students send notes of congratulations.
3. Have all program students write a letter to the Governor about why they need adult education and how it is helping them transition to postsecondary and/or employment.
4. Have students write the invitation inviting them to sit in on some classes.
5. Provide an opportunity for some students to share their stories about why access to adult education is so important to them.
6. Have students who have been studying citizenship or US history write to express what they value about our democratic society and invite the candidate to talk about that.

Included in this package are:

A) Website resource for students to find out which district they live in and who their Nevada representatives are.

B) Letter writing campaign template
http://mapserve1.leg.state.nv.us/whoru/

This interactive map allows you to identify your Nevada State Legislators by either entering an address, using locational services on your device, or simply clicking on the map.

Additional legislative information is available at: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/
Dear Representative First and Last Name,

If newly elected, can begin with “Congratulations on your election to the ____________.” If not, begin here: Describe why you enrolled in ________ program. (1 paragraph). Example from NH: I enrolled in this program to better myself and make my dreams come true. I’m a 24 year old single mother that needs to make a good example for my daughter. Not only just to be a good example but to better both our lives in the long run. I have had big dreams of going to college ever since I can remember and after dropping out of high school to raise my daughter my dreams had to go on the back burner for a while. I never lost sight of what my dreams were but I had my doubts of just how long it was going to take to achieve them. But ever since I’ve met Ms. Judy and started coming regularly, making friends with my peers, really applying myself, testing, getting great scores and feeling way more confident, my dreams and goals don’t seem so far away anymore.

What do you want to do when you leave the program? (One paragraph). Example from NH: When I leave here I would like to enroll in a top notch culinary school. Major in Bakery and Pastry Arts and probably some business classes, open my own bakery somewhere and become extremely successful. I know it may sound a little far off to some people but to me, it will happen.

Thank you so much for supporting adult education, it is important because without it, people like me with goals and a plan for the future can return to school without paying for expensive classes. Adult education is the ticket to success. (or something along these lines).

Sincerely,

Your first and last name (sign in the space above).
NOTES:

The “ASK” (final paragraph) is different for members of congress (federal government senators and representatives). Use, “Please support federal funding for adult education.”

The “ASK” for members of the NV state legislature should be, “Thank you for supporting adult education.”

To find NV senators and members of congress: http://nv.gov/government/federal/

Senator **Harry Reid**  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator **Dean Heller**  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

US Congress District 1: **Dina Titus**  
401 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

US Congress District 2: **Mark Amoedi**  
222 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

US Congress District 3: **Joe Heck**  
132 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

US Congress District 4: **Steven Horsford**  
1330 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515
To locate your local state representative visit: http://mapserve1.leg.state.nv.us/whoRU/ for an interactive map to determine your state representative or visit https://www.leg.state.nv.us

**Suggest each program/institution collects the letters and mails them to keep track of how many were sent (report back to us?).**