

JEA SPRC Teacher Kit

Commemorating 25 years of *Hazelwood*



Dear teachers and advisers,

On January 13, 2013, we commemorate a bittersweet milestone in scholastic publications history: the 1988 Supreme Court ruling in *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*. This decision institutionalized censorship in most public schools in America, and our students have been publishing in its shadow ever since.

This month, JEA's Scholastic Press Rights Commission seeks to re-engage teachers, students, administrators and local media in a discussion about *Hazelwood's* deleterious effects on civic education and scholastic journalism. Similarly, the Student Press Law Center's "Cure Hazelwood" campaign is aimed at making the public aware of *Hazelwood's* ill effects on our nation's schools. Together, we hope to encourage administrators and policymakers to reconsider a stifling decision that has long plagued our education system.

To that end, we have created a teacher kit with resources, lesson plans, and calls to action to energize your students and staffs to learn more about—and ultimately take action against—*Hazelwood*. This kit includes:

- posters to generate buzz at your school about the anniversary
- a letter to email/fax local media about the *Hazelwood* anniversary
- a letter for student publications to give to school administrators
- lessons/activities to complete with your journalism classes or publications staffs
- information about state-specific anti-*Hazelwood* legislation
- tips for creating a public forum for your school publications
- a checklist for responsible journalism
- finally, calls to action

In addition to this kit, resources to fight censorship are available at:

Scholastic Press Rights Commission: jeasprc.org

Journalism Education Association: jea.org

Student Press Law Center: curehazelwood.org

On behalf of JEA and the Scholastic Press Rights Commission, thank you for your continued commitment to free scholastic journalism.