

About the Civic Engagement Project

R.E. Lee High School students applied to participate in Mary Baldwin University's (MBU) civic engagement project, and 10 were selected for the 2018 Model City Council.

Each student was paired with an MBU member of Pi Sigma Alpha—a national honor society for political science—and a member of Staunton City Council. The students received weekly emails and were encouraged to attend city council work sessions and regular meetings throughout the spring.

After meetings, students talked informally with city council members and often gathered at The Split Banana for gelato, sometimes with a member of council.

Before the April 4 Model City Council meeting, students will have a private dinner with Staunton's city council members, a final chance to ask questions about the issues on which they'll be voting during their meeting and thank members for their support.

Each student has received a detailed agenda briefing packet for their council meeting in advance, so they can review the material and plan their questions and votes on each of six local issues.

MBU Professor Laura van Assendelft and Lee High teachers, Jennifer Goss and Bill Terry, have served as advisers throughout the project.