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To: <CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2004 5:05 PM
Subject: Character_Education_Network Online

**CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List
 Vol. #4 (February 2004)**

Welcome to the **CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK** online mail list. Your name has been added to this list as a result of your completing the New Jersey Department of Education Character Education Network Online Listserv Form or because you have indicated an interest in receiving updates on character education efforts in New Jersey.

The purpose of **The Network** is to encourage the adoption of character education programs and strategies by providing a forum for sharing information, research and promising practices. Through the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE), **The Network** will offer educators access to national and state character education experts and programs through conferences, workshops, and e-mails.

The Network will be bringing you **news** from the national, state and local levels; **best practices**, including updates from our New Jersey Local Education Area (LEA) Partner demonstration sites; announcements of **events, conferences, workshops**; and **professional development opportunities** throughout the state and at the national level; grant and **funding opportunities**; **program and assessment resources** and links to other character education **websites**.

A link to the NJ Center for Character Education website (www.nj-charactered.net) will lead you to current **articles** and **research** from the field as well as materials and large documents which you can download for use in your classroom.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Don't miss the deadline!

NJ Regional Character Education Conferences: Workshop Proposal Deadlines Due

Educators who are interested in presenting at the Regional Character Education Conferences still have time to submit workshop proposals. Conference Workshop Proposal Forms have been distributed to all County Superintendents and are also posted on the NJCCE website (www.nj-charactered.net) as downloadable documents (Look for "[Click here for more conference details and Workshop Proposal Forms](#)" on the NJCCE Homepage under UPCOMING EVENTS).

Workshop proposal deadlines are as follows:

Northern Region: **February 15, 2004**
 Central Region: **February 20, 2004**
 Southern Region: **February 20, 2004**

"Character Education 2004 – Building Program Quality: Changing Kid's Lives"

May 5, 2004 Northern Regional Character Education Conference
 Passaic County Community College Public Safety Academy
 Passaic County Technology Institute
 Wayne, NJ

May 17, 2004 Central Regional Character Education Conference
 Raritan Valley Community College
 Somerville, NJ

May 21, 2004 Southern Regional Character Education Conference
 Atlantic Cape Community College
 Mays Landing, NJ

Programs should represent best practices and research-based character education programs (PreK – 12) that emphasize the following areas:

- How to build a character education program in your district
- Strategies to evaluate your character education program
- Inclusive special education programs that enhance positive school culture
- Sustaining your program
- Service learning –learning real world skills as part of the course of study
- Developing citizens through civic education
- Infusing character education into core curriculum content standards
- Developing a caring community
- Creating a positive school culture
- Peer mediation/mentoring/leadership
- Ethnicity, race and gender
- Youth development strategies
- Social / emotional learning
- Bullying prevention

NJCCE, in collaboration with the Passaic County Superintendent of Schools' Office, the Somerset County Superintendent's Office and the Educational Information and Resource Center, is sponsoring these regional character education conferences for public and nonpublic schools emphasizing school reform, curriculum infusion using the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards and programs based on scientific research.

NJ Regional Character Education Conference Registration: Coming soon to NJCCE website

Look for downloadable Registration Forms for all three regional conferences in March, 2004 on the New Jersey Center for Character Education website at: www.nj-charactered.net. Print them out, fill them in and mail them to the Regional Conference Coordinator. Registration fees are \$25 and will cover the cost of lunch.

For more information about conference details, contact NJCCE at 732.445.3343.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Workshop News

Character Development Group (CDG) Reschedules Spring Workshops

In support of NJCCE's Regional Character Education Conferences this coming May 2004, CDG has cancelled their public workshops featuring Dr. Philip Fitch Vincent, Charlie Abourjillie and Deb Austin Brown originally scheduled for March, April and May of 2004 respectively. CDG plans to continue what is started in the regional conferences by offering advanced public workshops in Fall 2004. Information on CDG's fall workshops will be posted on NJCCE's website www.nj-charactered.net as soon as it becomes available. For information about the Character Development Group visit their website at: <http://www.charactereducation.com/>.

Pathways to Character

Training for Teachers, School and Community Personnel

A four-hour training introducing educators to the *Pathways to Character* K-6 subject and standards-based, inflexible, character education curriculum.

Presented by **Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey**

March 2, 2004

9:30am – 1:30pm

103 Church St., Ste. 210

New Brunswick, NJ

Cost: \$200 per person includes four-hour training, grade level appropriate 200+ page resource guide, in-service handouts, and a light breakfast and lunch.

Registration deadline: February 25, 2004

For more information on the March training, contact Carole O'Brien, **Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey**:

Telephone: 732.246.8060 x13; or cobrien@PreventChildAbuseNJ.org

For more information on EPIC programs, visit EPIC's homepage at: www.epicforchildren.org

The Institute for Global Ethics presents:

"TREC" Taking Responsibility for Ethical Cultures with Paula Mirk

A three-day leadership retreat for making schools more ethical places. TREC is designed to equip school leadership teams with tools and skills to build positive school climate through schoolwide appreciation and support for ethical literacy.

March 24, 25, 26

Princeton, New Jersey

Registration fee: \$650 per person.

For more information or to register, call 800-729-2615

e-mail pjones@globalethics.org.

SPECIAL SEMINAR SERIES

Character Education for Administrators

"Building Schools of Character: The Leader's Role"

Thursday, April 22, 2004

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Rutgers University, Cook Campus Center

Keynote Speaker Announced

The New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCCE) in cooperation with the New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA) and the New Jersey Principals & Supervisors Association (NJPSA) and in association with The Public Education Institute (PEI) at Rutgers will hold the first in a series of seminars focused on exploring the contribution that social emotional learning and character education make in developing successful students with prosocial values.

The **keynote address** will be delivered by **Dr. Sheldon Berman**, Superintendent, Hudson, MA Public Schools. Dr. Berman is the founder and President of Educators for Social Responsibility and author of *Children's Social Consciousness* and *Promising Practices in Teaching Social Responsibility* as well as numerous articles on virtual education, character education, service-learning and education reform.

The seminar will highlight the role and successful experiences of school administrators in fostering a caring school culture that effectively imparts the cherished values of our society to the young.

Administrators will have an opportunity to:

- hear from other education leaders who have successfully implemented character education and social/emotional learning programs;
- share lessons learned and program outcomes;
- discuss concerns regarding strategies for implementation and evaluation; and
- create mechanisms for mutual support and networking

Additional seminar information will be distributed to administrators through their professional associations in February. The NJCCCE website will also provide seminar updates and registration information.

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **First Amendment Schools Announces Application for Grant Award Program**

The First Amendment Schools project will award four grants of \$36,000 each to help schools affirm First Amendment principles and put them into action throughout their communities.

Grant applications are available online (in PDF format) and are due **April 25, 2004**. For more information about the application process, contact John Kent (1-703-284-3931; jkent@freedomforum.org).

For further information about the First Amendment Schools project, visit their website at <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/> or contact Molly McCloskey at ASCD (1-703-575-5475; mmccloskey@ascd.org) or Sam Chaltain at the First Amendment Center (1-703-284-2808; schaltain@freedomforum.org).

- **ING North America Insurance Corporation – Education’s Unsung Heroes Awards**

As a reflection of its commitment to the educational community, ING initiated the Unsung Heroes awards program in 1995. The awards are given to K-12 educators pioneering in new methods and techniques that improve student learning. Educators submit applications describing projects they have initiated or would like to create. Their applications are judged on their innovative teaching methods, creative educational projects, and ability to make a positive influence on the children they teach.

Each year, 100 finalists are selected to receive \$2,000 awards. Of the 100 finalists, three are selected for additional financial awards - First Place gets an additional \$25,000; 2nd Place gets an additional \$10,000; and 3rd Place receives an additional \$5,000.

Visit http://www.ing-usa.com/us/about/connect/education/unsung_heroes.html for more information including a downloadable pdf version of the application. The deadline for application is **April 30, 2004**. Winners will be announced in Fall 2004.

“Character Education is not another thing on your plate – it is the plate.”

- Anonymous