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**From:** "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>  
**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2004 7:14 PM  
**Subject:** Character\_Education\_Network Online

**CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List  
Vol. #5 (March 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](http://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.

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**NJ Regional Character Education Conferences: Registration begins next week!**

Space is limited, so register early.

**“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  
Registration Deadline: **April 20, 2004**

May 17, 2004 Central Regional Character Education Conference  
Raritan Valley Community College  
Somerville, NJ  
Registration Deadline: **April 30, 2004**  
(Registrations accepted at the door, if space is available)

(Registration information also available at: [www. http://www.raritanval.edu/cce/char\\_ed\\_reg2004.htm](http://www.raritanval.edu/cce/char_ed_reg2004.htm))

May 21, 2004 Southern Regional Character Education Conference  
Atlantic Cape Community College  
Mays Landing, NJ  
Registration Deadline: **May 7, 2004**

**Regional Conference Registration Forms Available:**

- On the NJCCE website ([www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net)) as downloadable documents. Next week look for “[Click here for conference Registration Forms](#)” on the NJCCE Homepage under UPCOMING EVENTS.

Print them out, fill them in and mail them to the Regional Conference Coordinator listed on each form.

- A number of registration forms will be distributed to all County Superintendents' offices. Registration forms may be reproduced for distribution.

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

## 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: Dr. Sheldon Berman, Superintendent, Hudson, MA Public Schools.

#### **Registration Deadline: April 9, 2004**

#### **Registration response is high - Limited space is still available**

If you are an administrator or know others who would be interested in this program, please share the following information with them:

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 is being distributed to administrators through their professional associations. Seminar **registration form is available** on the NJCCE website at: [www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net) under UPCOMING EVENTS.

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## Save the Date / April 23, 2004

### **Time Out for Service: Community Service for Expelled & Suspended Students**

New Jersey Department of Education Conference  
in Partnership with the Department of State  
April 23, 2004  
Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick

This conference will feature:

- Workshops on strategies for engaging expelled and suspended students in their schools and communities; best practices; current research; schools, community and faith-based organizations partnering to benefit young people, and more .
- Keynote speaker: Dr. Robert Barr, nationally recognized expert on strategies for re-engaging at-risk students
- Free publications on community service and related topics.

For more information visit: [www.state.nj.us/education/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/)

or contact:

New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service  
New Jersey Department of State  
(609) 633-9627

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## **NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

### **National Bullying Prevention Campaign Teleconference Scheduled**

Monday, April 19, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. EDT.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools (OSDFS), the video teleconference will disseminate important bullying prevention messages to individuals all across the country. The program will be accessible to anyone with access to a satellite feed or the Internet. NJCCE will communicate information regarding local satellite feed locations as it becomes available.

### **Character Education Partnership**

#### **11th National Forum: Exploring Pathways to Civic Character**

**October 21 – 23, 2004**

**Westin Galleria Hotel**

**Houston, Texas**

Character Education Partnership (CEP) is seeking presentations for the 2004 National Forum: Exploring Pathways to Civic Character.

**March 15, 2004** is the deadline for proposal submissions.

Visit [http://www.character.org/files/presenter\\_text.pdf](http://www.character.org/files/presenter_text.pdf) for application form and guidelines

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## **GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **U.S. Department of Education Announces Character Education Grants**

**U.S. Department of Education**

**Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools**

**Partnerships in Character Education**

Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

Application Deadline: April 9, 2004

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded \$2.5 million to implement character education programs in its

Partnerships in Character Education grant initiative. Local education agencies (LEAs) and consortia of LEAs are eligible to apply. The deadline is **April 9, 2004**.

The Partnerships in Character Education program provides federal funding to local education agencies (LEAs) and consortia of LEAs to help design and implement character education programs that take into consideration the view of parents, students, students with disabilities (including those with mental or physical disabilities), and other members of the community, including members of private and nonprofit organizations. The character education programs must be integrated into classroom instruction and must be consistent with state academic standards. The department will favor programs that include scientifically-based research evaluations or assessments to determine the programs' effectiveness.  
Contact: Sharon J. Burton, 202-219-2044, [Sharon.Burton@ed.gov](mailto:Sharon.Burton@ed.gov)

Serious applicants can call NJCCE at (732) 445-7504 to discuss the grant and application requirements. (Complete information in PDF downloadable format can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2004-1/022404e.html>)

## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

### **Classroom Management / Discipline Resource**

"Using a Discipline System to Promote Learning", by Marvin Marshall and Kerry Weisner  
Phi Delta Kappa International: the professional journal for education  
(<http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/k0403mar.htm>)

This article, found in the March 2004 online issue of Phi Delta Kappan, reflects a positive approach to discipline, consistent with the principles of character education and social/emotional theory and practice.

### **World Youth Leadership & Activism Conference (WYLAC)**

#### **Building Civic Engagement & Empowerment**

Rutgers University, College Avenue Campus (New Brunswick, NJ)  
Sunday, August 8, 2004 – Saturday, August 14, 2004

For high school students who want to become agents of change in their communities by learning leadership and teamwork skills. WYLAC is made possible by a partnership of the American Red Cross, Citizenship and Service Education and Global PACT-Partnerships for Activism and Cross-Cultural Training.

Discounted fees for early registration (by April 1<sup>st</sup>). For more conference information and registration details, log on to [www.njredcross.org](http://www.njredcross.org) and look in their "What's New" section.

## FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

The NJCCE has been in existence for a year now, and I often say to family, friends and colleagues that this is the best job I've ever had. The New Jersey Department of Education gave me the opportunity to write the Partnerships in Character Education and establish the Center, and it has been rewarding to see how much we have accomplished this first year, in cooperation with the NJDOE:

- Set up our office in the very welcoming environment of the Center for Applied Psychology in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, under the leadership of Dean Stanley Messer and Dr. Lew Gantwerk;
- Hired a few fine staff persons to fill the critical roles to make the Center work (see staff list on the NJCCE website at [http://216.119.109.199/character\\_ed/People.htm](http://216.119.109.199/character_ed/People.htm));
- Selected ten school districts to serve as partners and be the focus of program planning, development and evaluation efforts;
- Held a statewide conference attended by more than 600 New Jersey educators;
- Established strong collaborative relationships with national and state organizations such as the Character Education Partnership, the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning and the Princeton Center for Leadership and Training; and the main statewide advocacy associations such as NJEA, NJASA and NJPSA;

- Started our website and listserv services as a way to reach out to educators throughout New Jersey  
– more than 550 character educators are now part of our electronic Character Education Network;
- Received help and advice from an Action Team of dedicated educators representing the Network.

We are looking forward to a very active spring, as we hold three regional conferences and a statewide seminar for administrators to promote and deepen our commitment to the value of character education. I look forward to meeting many of you at these events and to helping support our mutual dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of the children we serve.

-- Philip Brown