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Sent: Friday, May 14, 2004 5:39 PM
Subject: Character_Education_Network Online

CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List Vol. #7 (May 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.

CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

FY2005 Budget for New Jersey Supports Character Education

Once again, the recommended Fiscal 2005 Budget for New Jersey includes support for the New Jersey Character Education Partnership Initiative. The McGreevey Administration's Budget for Fiscal 2005 has again recommended \$4.75 million in support of character education programs in school districts throughout NJ.

As usual, the New Jersey Department of Education will provide applications and instructions to school districts later this summer for utilization of these state aid funds following passage of the FY 2005 budget.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CEP Eleven Principles Sourcebook Institute Coming to New Jersey This Summer

With special funding support from The New Jersey Department of State – NJ Learn and Serve America Program, the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE) will be offering the Character Education Partnership (CEP) one-day workshop **TUITION FREE** this summer. Enrollment will be open to New Jersey educators and will be limited to 50 participants. The Sourcebook (CEP's Eleven Principles textbook materials) will also be made available to workshop registrants at the discounted rate of \$149, a savings of \$100 off retail price.

Based on educator interest, the Institute will be held on one of the following dates: July 29, July 30,

August 2 or August 3, 2004. The Rutgers University – Busch campus will be the site of the Institute.

If you are interested in receiving more information including registration materials, complete the CEP Sourcebook Institute interest form found on the NJCCE website at: www.nj-charactered.net. Mail or fax the form to the NJCCE address listed on the form by June 30, 2004.

peace PALS Forum – Peer and Leadership Support

Thursday, June 10, 2004

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

PSE&G Training Center, Edison, NJ

Registration deadline: June 1, 2004

(This event is sponsored by the Princeton Center for Leadership Training with funding support from PSE&G)

Participants at this character education forum will:

- Learn how peace PALS brings together students from three different grades in a leadership experience that builds peer connections
- Hear from administrators, teachers, and students from two pilot schools in Trenton that are implementing this program
- Experience components of the program firsthand.

The program has been developed for Elementary School Principals, with the option of bringing a staff member who is interested in Character Education. To learn how to enroll your school, contact Mary Moloughney at 609.252.9300 x111

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

NJ Regional Character Education Conferences

“Character Education 2004 – Building Program Quality: Changing Kid’s Lives”

Central Regional Conference - May 17, 2004 Registration Deadline: April 30, 2004

(Registrations accepted at the door, if space is available)

Raritan Valley Community College

Somerville, NJ

(Registration information also available at: http://www.raritanval.edu/cce/char_ed_reg2004.htm)

Southern Regional Conference - May 21, 2004 Registration Deadline: May 7, 2004

Atlantic Cape Community College

Mays Landing, NJ

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.

Center for the 4th and 5th Rs

State University of New York at Cortland

10th Annual Summer Institute in Character Education (K-8):

Improving Student Learning and Behavior Through Character Development

June 28 – July 1 (Four day institute)

June 28 – July 2 (Five day option for graduate credit)

Registration deadline: June 11, 2004

The institute will provide hands-on training in the 12 components of the Center's Comprehensive Approach to Character Education, designed to help participants apply session content to their classrooms and schools. The institute format is designed on the basis of research on best practices in staff development, providing practical skills, as well as theoretical knowledge and strategies for developing professional learning communities that sustain and deepen character education.

For a description of the program, view the institute flyer at:

<http://www.cortland.edu/c4n5rs/Siflyer2004.pdf> or E-mail: c4n5rs@cortland.edu or (607) 753-2455. Website: www.cortland.edu/c4n5rs/brochure.asp

Dr. Philip Fitch Vincent – Character Development Group

Best Practices in Character Education II

Character Education in the Classroom: Civility in the Community and Workplace

October 4, 2004

8:00 – 8:30 am Registration - 8:30 – 3:00pm Workshop

The National Conference Center - Ramada Inn - East Windsor, NJ

The one-day workshop is designed for teachers and administrators who have already begun a character education effort and want to *continue* to build and improve their school's efforts. The interactive workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Vincent and will offer Professional Development hours upon completion of workshop. Registration fee: \$150 – Includes books and other resource materials selected by Dr. Vincent specifically for workshop participants. (Receive one free registration when more than three team member register).

For more workshop information, call 1-(888) 262-0572 or visit the CDG website at:

www.charactereducation.com.

The Institute for Global Ethics

“TREC” – Taking Responsibility for Ethical Cultures

A Leadership Retreat for Those who Shape the School Culture

With Paula Mirk, Vice President, Education

October 27-29, 2004

Princeton, NJ

This three-day leadership retreat is designed to equip school teams with the tools and skills to build a more positive school climate through schoolwide appreciation and support for ethical literacy.

Registration fee: \$650 per person

For more retreat details, go to : <http://www.gloablethics.org/seminars/trec.html>. To register, or to arrange for a custom TREC, call 800.729.2615, email (pmirk@gloablethics.org), or standard mail (P.O. Box 563; Camden, ME 04843). For information about the Institute, visit their website at:

<http://www.gloablethics.org/>.

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Two Multi-year Grant Programs offered by NJ Learn and Serve America

Applications due: June 9, 2004

The Learn and Serve America: School Based Program (LSA-SBP), will be awarding up to \$393,000 in funds to districts to increase student, teacher, and community participation in service-learning projects.

Implementation Grants (Qualified applicants may apply for a maximum of \$25,000)

Designed for districts with limited experience in service-learning and districts that have never administered a LSA: SBP or have not successfully completed the two year grant cycle.

Expansion Grants (Qualified applicants may apply for a maximum of \$42,000)

Designed for districts that have successfully administered a LSA:SBP during 1996-2004. Current Expansion grantees are not eligible to apply.

For more information or to receive a copy of the Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO), please call 609.633.9627.

New Jersey Coalition to Support the Civic Mission of the Schools

This new coalition has been established to support teaching of the knowledge, skills and inclination to participate in our democratic society. The core group of initial members consists of folks from higher education, state associations (e.g. NJPSA, NJ Council for the Social Studies) and a few school district program coordinators. The NJCCE will be working with the NJ Center for Civic and Law-Related Education at Rutgers as a partner in actively linking these new efforts to our character education agenda. If you want more information about the Coalition, please contact the NJCCE.

For more information about the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, visit:

<http://www.civicmissionofschools.org>

WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH**New Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Guides Available**

The YMCA has two new guides available to help you enhance your civic engagement and service-learning activities. The Service-Learning Guide provides new or expanded information on building sustainable service-learning programs, working with youth, community collaboration, and reflection activities. The Civic Engagement Guide is a comprehensive new resource that provides a step-by-step process for promoting civic engagement attitudes, skills and behaviors. Both can be purchased through YMCA Program Store, by calling (800) 747-0089 and asking for them by name. Each resource is \$19 plus shipping.

(From the website of the National Youth Development Information Center,

<http://www.nydic.org/nydic/index.html>)

The Bill of Rights Institute to publish new resource, *Being an American: The Ideals That Unite Us*

Designed for middle and high school students, *Being an American* will help young people “connect the dots” by focusing on the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and America’s civic values, as well as the American heroes who embodied these values. Publication is scheduled for early Fall 2004 with a list price of \$12.95. For more information, call 703.894.1776.

For more resources including an online teacher’s guide, free lesson plans and e-newsletters, visit the Bill of Rights website at: <http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/>

FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

As the school year heads towards this last very busy period, I would like to thank the many educators who have participated in the events and meetings sponsored by the NJCCE. Your willingness to share with each other the results of your efforts in infusing character education and social emotional learning into your classrooms, instruction and school culture are of immense support to us all, and are visible when we visit you and see the fine work you are doing.

Last year we heard from many of you that administrative support was key to sustaining your programs, and last month we held the first New Jersey conference on character education specifically designed for school administrators -- *Building Schools of Character: The Leader's Role*. Almost 200 superintendents, principals and program coordinators attended that event. I am pleased to report that 100% of attendees who evaluated the seminar agreed that it helped them gain a clearer understanding of their role in building schools of character. Ninety-eight percent of the attendees felt that the conference was useful in providing an example of how character education and social/emotional learning can form the basis for sustained school reform. The national office of the Collaborative for Academic and Social Emotional Learning (CASEL) in Chicago sent a staff member to observe what we are doing to address administrators, and the acting Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Mid-Atlantic Regional Laboratory for Student Success at Temple University attended as did the policy advisor on education to Governor McGreevey.

Please feel free to call on the NJCCE as you begin planning your work for next year or if you have questions about programs, resources or how to best utilize state New Jersey Character Education Partnership Initiative funds.

-- Philip Brown