
From: "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>
To: <CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>
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**CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List
Vol. #10 (October/November 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.

FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

One of the October events that many character educators across the country look forward to is the annual gathering of the clan, the Character Education Partnership's annual Forum, which brings together the most dedicated educators, researchers and program providers in this emerging field. There were two highlights of this year's conference for our contingent from NJCCE.

First, as noted below in the CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS section, New Jersey had more winners of Promising Practice awards than any state in the country. It was with great pride that we sat with educators from the schools receiving the awards and watched them receive recognition from their peers for the creative and dedicated work they have put into developing their character education programs. New Jersey also has its first public National School Of Character winner in Cranford High School. This prestigious award is given to only ten schools in the country each year. Dr. Maurice Elias, the Senior Advisor for Programs and Policy for the NJCCE, was recognized for three years of service on the blue-ribbon panel that selects the winners, and indicated that NJ made his job much easier because we had so many applicants for which he had to recuse himself!

Congratulations to all of these outstanding character education leaders. We encourage New Jersey educators to participate in even greater numbers next year. Applications and guidelines for the 2005 National School of Character and Promising Practice awards are available now on the CEP website at <http://www.character.org>. Note the application deadlines listed in the NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES section below.

The second notable presentation at the conference was the unveiling of new work by Drs. Thomas Lickona and Matt Davidson at the Center for the 4th and 5th Rs at SUNY Cortland, (<http://www.cortland.edu/c4n5rs/>). They have conducted a national study of 26 exemplary high schools looking at educational excellence and defined qualities of Performance Character and Moral Character that these schools use to create 'Smart and Good High Schools.' The full report, including recommendations for program strategies, will be available soon and can be ordered at <http://www.cortland.edu/character/>.

If you will be attending the NJEA [Convention](#) later this week, stop by the NJCCE booth (#1049). We'd like to talk with you and learn how current character education initiatives are helping NJ educators support the NJEA conference theme, *Continuing the Campaign for Quality Education*.

-- Philip Brown

CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- **New Jersey captures record number of CEP Awards**
The Character Education Partnership (CEP) annually recognizes K-12 schools and districts demonstrating outstanding character education initiatives that yield positive results in student behavior, school climate and academic performance. This year, eleven New Jersey schools received the following awards:

2004 National School of Character
Cranford High School
Cranford Township School District
Cranford, New Jersey

2004 Promising Practices
Cherry Hill High School East
and
Kingston Elementary School
Cherry Hill School District
Cherry Hill, NJ

Gladys Cannon Nunery - PS 29
and
Martin Luther King Jr. No. 11 Elementary School
Jersey City School District
Jersey City, New Jersey

Haskell Elementary School
Wanaque School District
Haskell, New Jersey

Memorial Middle School
Fairlawn School District
Fairlawn, New Jersey

Middle and High School Alternative Program
Long Branch Public Schools
Long Branch, New Jersey

Plainfield High School
Plainfield School District
Plainfield, New Jersey

Robert Frost Elementary School
East Brunswick School District
East Brunswick, New Jersey

South Amboy Elementary School
South Amboy School District
South Amboy, New Jersey

Although winners may differ in method, content, and scope, all emphasize core ethical values such as honesty, respect, responsibility and caring. CEP features the NSOC award winners in their *2004 National Schools of Character* publication and on their website at <http://www.character.org/>. The NSOC publication describes the winning initiatives, ranging in trends from Integration into the Curriculum, to Service Learning and Parent and Community Involvement. For information on ordering this publication, call (800) 988-8081 or e-mail geninfo@character.org.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **HOLD THESE CONFERENCE DATES:**

NJCCE, in conjunction with cooperating host partners, will sponsor newly formatted character education conferences in Spring 2005 emphasizing the role of school/district teams in building quality character education initiatives.

February 14, 2005

Creating A Caring High School through the Integration of Character Education and the New Standards

Co-hosted by The NJ Center for Character Education and the NJ Department of Education, Office of Academic and Professional Standards, this conference will address the key issues that face high school administrators and teachers when attempting to integrate character education and social and emotional learning into the newly released NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards.

May 17, 2005 and October 17, 2005

Character Education Institute 2005: Building Teams to Sustain Best Practices

Co-hosted by The NJ Center for Character Education, Raritan Valley Community College, and the Office of the Somerset County Superintendent of Schools this 2-day institute will address Character Education from a team perspective, exploring school or district-wide issues that impact and influence the planning, implementation and evaluation of a school/district character education initiative. Participating teams will partner with a Best Practice Model School to develop a character education plan and implement it during the 2005-2006 school year. The teams will then be invited to present their CE program progress at the 2006 Character Education Conference.

Details on all conference locations and registration procedures will be included in future listserv communications.

- **Practitioners' Conference on Civic Education**

January 13-15, 2005

Hotel InterContinental

New Orleans, LA

Sponsored by the Centre for Policy and Practice, an independent, nonpartisan organization that supports research and its application to real world questions. For a country to flourish and grow, and for a democracy to sustain liberty and justice, the next generation of citizens must acquire the civic skills, abilities and commitments to govern. The conference will include work on service-learning, moral education, character education, democratic education, violence prevention, and substance abuse prevention. The Plenary Address will be given by Carolyn Pereira, Executive Director of the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago.

For information on conference workshops and registration, contact: Centre for Policy and Practice, Practitioners' Conference on Civic Education, Email: info@civicedconf.org, or visit <http://www.civicedconf.org/practice.html>.

- **Beyond School Hours® VIII**

The Power of Partnerships

February 16 to 19, 2005

Hyatt Regency Atlanta

Atlanta, Georgia

Best practices and successful models for after-school programs will be presented by keynote speakers, and through interactive workshop sessions. Planned in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Programs.

For the most current conference information, visit www.foundationsinc.org.

- **New Professional Development Initiative for PreK-12 Educators**

The Center for Effective School Practices has announced the debut of *The Academy for Teaching and Learning* at Rutgers University. The Academy will provide cutting edge training on topics relevant to today's educators, including a technology strand that recognizes the interrelationship between teaching, learning and technology. For more information about The Academy for Teaching and Learning, visit <http://cesp.rutgers.edu> or contact Barbara Horr at bhorr@rci.rutgers.edu or call 732-564-9100.

- **Become a National School of Character**

National Schools of Character program is an annual awards program of The Character Education Partnership (CEP). It recognizes K-12 schools and districts demonstrating outstanding character education initiatives that yield positive results in student behavior, school climate and academic performance. CEP encourages school and districts involved in character education to look at the criteria "Character Education Quality Standards" to determine whether they might qualify. Selected schools and districts receive a cash award of \$2,000, national recognition, and a featured position in CEP's National Schools of Character publication.

Applications for the 2005 National Schools of Character and Promising Practices are now available.

National Schools of Character applications must be postmarked by Monday, December 6, 2004. To download and print the 2005 National Schools of Character application, go to:
http://www.character.org/eventsawards/nsoc/files/2005_nsoc_app.pdf

Promising Practices applications must be postmarked by March, 15 2005. To download and print the 2005 Promising Practices application, go to:

http://www.character.org/eventsawards/nsoc/files/2005_promising_practices_app.pdf

(See more about this year's winners in the sections FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR and CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS above.)

NEW JERSEY RECOGNITION/AWARDS OPPORTUNITIES

- **Nominations for 2005 NJ Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Award**

Each year NJ CAP recognizes people around the state who have demonstrated, through their personal or professional lives, a dedication to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. For qualifying criteria and instructions on how to nominate a deserving educator, contact NJ CAP at (856) 582-7000 or visit the NJ CAP website at www.njcap.org. This year's application deadline is December 17, 2004. Award recipients will be honored at the annual ceremony and luncheon on April 8, 2005 at the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard.

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Eagleton Institute offering grants**

As part of its efforts promoting civic education on representative democracy, the Eagleton Institute is offering small grants to teachers of social studies in middle schools (6th grade and above) and high schools throughout New Jersey. The \$300 grants will be awarded to teachers who want to bring their classes to visit the State House in Trenton. The grants are intended to help pay for the rental of a bus for the trip.

Teachers of government, history, civics or social studies at the middle- or high-school level are eligible to apply for a \$300 grant for the rental of a bus to travel to Trenton. Applications can be submitted at any time, but awards will be made twice during the school year. The first awards will be announced November 1 and the second awards will be announced February 1. The awards can be used for visits to the State House on a day during that school year. For more information, visit <http://www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/StateHouseExpress.html>

- **Robert H. Michel Civic Education Grants**

The Dirksen Congressional Center will award a total of \$35,000 in grants next year to fund practical classroom strategies to improve the quality of teaching and learning about civics with a particular emphasis on the role of Congress in the federal government. Grants are intended to assist in the development of innovative curricula that will improve the quality of civics instruction by designing lesson plans, creating student activities, and applying instructional technology in the classroom. Teachers and teacher-led student teams in grades 6-12 are eligible to apply, as are independent individuals and organizations with an interest in curricular development. **Application deadline: 5/1/2005.** For more information, visit: <http://www.DirksenCenter.org/>.

WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- **Help Shape the Future of Learn and Serve America**

The Corporation for National & Community Service published a notice inviting public comment on Learn and Serve America in the Federal Register on October 12th. The Notice can be viewed at <http://www.servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/169/>. This is an opportunity for the field to help shape the future of Learn and Serve America so it is important that everyone participates. Several organizations are working to develop a sign-on letter in response to this initial rulemaking stage. Please send an email to kbak@ysa.org if you'd like to learn more, and specifically, to share your thoughts on how these potential changes would impact your program, students, partners, and community.

Seasons of Service and Special Events

November 21–27, 2004 36TH ANNUAL National Family Week, www.nationalfamilyweek.org

January 2005 National Mentoring Month – www.whomentoredyou.org

January 17, 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – www.mlkday.org

February 14-20, 2005 Random Acts of Kindness Week – www.actsofkindness.org

April 4 – July 25, 2005 Great American Bake Sale – www.greatamericanbakesale.org

April 15-17, 2005 National Youth Service Day – www.ysa.org/nysd

April 15-17, 2005 Global Youth Service Day – www.gysd.org

April 17-23, 2005 National Volunteer Week – www.pointsoflight.org

April 22, 2005 Earth Day – www.earthday.org

May 7, 2005 Join Hands Day – www.joinhandsday.org

- **New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education**

The New Jersey Holocaust Commission serves as a resource to the Department of Education to assist schools with various aspects of meeting the requirements of the mandate to provide Holocaust and genocide education. The commission provides curriculum outlines and suggested activities; identifies and publicizes demonstration sites for other districts to contact; and recommends informational resources and materials for teachers and students to use in the state. Regional resource centers have been established on university and college campuses throughout New Jersey. Visit http://www.state.nj.us/njded/holocaust/resources/holocaust_centers.html for a complete listing of these resource centers.

One of these centers is The Institute for Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Raritan Valley Community College. The Institute promotes tolerance, understanding, and compassion to ensure goodness will prevail over evil; serves as a repository of Holocaust and genocide literature and audio/visual materials with outreach services; and evokes reflection and remembrance while encouraging active community participation to build a more humane society.

The Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Resource Center, a joint project between the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties and RVCC, is a 1600 square foot Center located on the upper level of the RVCC Learning Resources Center. It houses computers with Internet access, and books, tapes and other reference materials for research and study. The Center also provides an area for instruction. It has an extensive library of materials currently available on the Holocaust and genocide related issues including The Morris and Dorothy Hirsch Research Library collection. For more information and resources, visit <http://www.raritanval.edu/Holocaust/>.