

---

**From:** "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@RCI.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 06, 2005 4:45 PM  
**Subject:** CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online - 2005 Vol. #4

**CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List**  
**April/May 2005 - Vol. #4**

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.

**In this issue of The Network:**

- From the NJCCE Director:
  - ★ Register Online for *Smart & Good High Schools Regional Institute*
  - ★ LEA demonstration sites tell their Character Education stories
- National and State Professional Development Opportunities
- New Resource for Engaging Students in Civil Society

**FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR**


There are two items on this month's listserv to which I want to particularly draw your attention. First, the June 3rd *Smart and Good High Schools Regional Institute*, featured in this month's network newsletter, will provide a wonderful opportunity for New Jersey educators to become acquainted with a piece of work that can provide a sound framework for planning and implementing character education in New Jersey high schools. The Institute will also be an opportunity to spend a day with one of the grandfather's of the character education movement in this country, Dr. Tom Lickona of SUNY Cortland. Tom Lickona's 1991 ground-breaking book, "Educating for Character", is still considered one of the most important works in establishing this field. Tom has keynoted a previous statewide conference by the Department of Education and is a truly inspiring person to hear. His colleague in this new work, Dr. Matt Davidson, has also contributed significantly to innovations in program evaluation of character education and has consulted with New Jersey schools.

The NJCCE is delighted that the NJ Education Association and the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association have agreed to co-sponsor this event. We encourage all members of the New Jersey Character Education Network to join us on June 3rd. See below for more details and registration

information.

The second item is new information on the NJCCE website, [www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net), on our federal Partnerships in Character Education grant demonstration sites. Each LEA Partner school district has put together background on the 'story' of their character education history that is very interesting reading. Eight of the ten districts have gone live with their stories, and we invite you to dip into any or all of them.



Click on  which you will find at the top of the website's homepage banner.

Each story will become increasingly richer over the next year as the LEA's add information, graphics and video clips to their district story sites. NJCCE invites you to consider constructing your own character education story as a way of documenting the history and accomplishments of your programs. Please contact us as you develop your stories so we can share them with others as we are doing here.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.  
Director

---

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Smart & Good High Schools Regional Institute*  
June 3, 2005  
8:30 am – 3:30 pm  
The National Conference Center  
East Windsor, NJ

Registration Deadline: May 20, 2005  
Register Online at <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

The New Jersey Center for Character Education is very pleased to be the regional host for a very special event which reviews the evidence from high functioning high schools around the country on how to develop students with both performance and moral character.

Drs. Thomas Lickona and Matthew Davidson of the Center for the 4th and 5th Rs will present a day-long overview of the findings and key concepts of the national report, *Smart & Good High Schools: Integrating Excellence and Ethics for Success in School, Work, and Beyond*. Participants will take away groundbreaking ideas and promising practices that can be used by an individual teacher or a whole school to integrate excellence and ethics within an ethical learning community.

To download and read a preview of the report by chapter, visit:  
<http://www.cortland.edu/character/highschools/chapters.htm>

Co-sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Education Association and the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association.

- *Let's Get Real Anti-Bullying Training*

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

9:30 am – 3:30 pm

170 Elm Street  
Westfield, NJ

The New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition will sponsor an anti-bullying training on how to use the resource, *Let's Get Real*, a powerful documentary where youth speak up about name-calling and bullying. The training will provide educators and youth-service providers with valuable information, discussion and activities on how to use *Let's Get Real* to start a dialogue with youth in their schools, programs and communities about name-calling and bullying.

Training includes:

- Laying the groundwork—discussion of student health, safety and anti-bias principles
- A viewing of the film
- Introduction to classroom discussion and exercises
- Small-group discussion
- Action plans for and communities
- Introduction to additional resources
- Copy of Let's Get Real video and curriculum

For questions about this event, call Lee McDermott at 908-789-0259. To find out more about *Let's Get Real*, visit [www.respectforall.org](http://www.respectforall.org).

- *Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools Promising Programs Showcase*  
Tuesday, May 17, 2005  
7:30 am – 3:30 pm  
Atlantic City Convention Center  
Atlantic City, NJ

This one-day event is designed to exhibit science-based programs identified as promising by the United States Department of Education's Expert Panel on Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free Schools. These programs have demonstrated promising results in preventing substance use, violence, and other high-risk student behaviors.

Sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Student Services, Office of Program Support Services in collaboration with New Jersey Network (NJN). No fee. Advanced registration is required and is first come, first served. Maximum capacity of 450 participants. For registration materials, program descriptions and other conference information, contact Event Coordinator, Ms. Kathleen Thompson via fax at 908.237.0327 or email at [safeschoolsnj@yahoo.com](mailto:safeschoolsnj@yahoo.com).

- *Building School Civility*  
Wednesday, May 18, 2005  
8:30 am – 1 pm  
NJPSA/FEA Headquarters  
Jamesburg, NJ

Presented by the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association/Foundation for Educational Administration, Kidsbridge Children's Museum with co-sponsorship from the New Jersey Center for Character Education

This workshop, facilitated by Dr. Phil Vincent, is designed for those who are concerned about the civil climate of their school, or the lack thereof. This lack of civility can be between student and teacher, student and student, teacher and student and adult to adult

Ideas that will be presented include:

- Why there is less civility in our society and why this is effecting our schools,
- How we can change the civil climate of our schools by modeling, teaching and re-emphasizing habits of civility and how research illustrates that a civil climate equates to increased academic success,
- How all curriculum offerings from the humanities and sciences to the arts and physical education can be used to promote the civil school and civil society,
- How service learning promotes positive civil and academic gains for students,
- By sharing ideas within the group as well as gaining some insights from the presentation, we will work together to gain a greater understanding of the important role that a civil school can play in reducing office referrals and suspensions, reducing the turnover of staff and generate a more positive atmosphere for teaching and learning.

Fee: \$100-member; \$160 nonmember; breakfast included. CEU'S provided.

To register, visit the NJPSA website at: [www.njpsa.org](http://www.njpsa.org), go to "Workshops" or "Workshop Bulletin", or call: 609-860-1200.

- *Ethics in School: Applications for Every Classroom*  
Monday, June 13, 2005  
9:00 am – 2:30 pm  
Monmouth University  
West Long Branch, NJ

Presented by the NJ Center for Ethics Education and the NJ Center for Character Education, this statewide conference is designed for educators who:

- want to integrate a process of ethical decision-making and problem-solving into the curriculum
- want to improve the ethical climate in their school and/or district
- teach an ethics course
- use case studies to stimulate discussion of ethical dilemmas
- appreciate the link between creating an ethical climate and improving the learning environment

This statewide conference will offer:

**Plenary session: "Setting the Ethical Climate in School"**

Donald Proffit, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Lawrence Township School District, and Principal, Lawrence High School

**Faculty Panel Discussion: "Practical Applications for Today's Schools"**

**Workshops:**

Each participant will have a choice of one of the following workshops:

- How to Handle the Headlines
- Integrating Ethical Issues into the Cyber Classroom
- Finding Boundaries in the Brave New World of Biotech
- The Philosophy for Children Program: Developing a Community of Inquiry through Literature

Educators will also have an opportunity to network, identify and share new resources, and build a statewide consortium of ethics educators.

**Registration Deadline: June 3, 2005.** Fee: \$25 includes materials and lunch.

For more information and registration details, contact Annette McCabe at 908.964.9449 or e-mail her at [admin@njabr.org](mailto:admin@njabr.org).

Co-sponsored by the Biology Department – Monmouth University, the New Jersey Education Association and the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association.

---

## NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- *Steps to Safe and Sound Schools: Implementing School-Wide Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)*  
 June 16-17 or  
 August 10-11, 2005  
 8:00 am – 3:00pm  
 University of Illinois at Chicago

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) is offering a 2-day training session on the SEL implementation process and how to use their new SEL Implementation Guide to achieve high-quality and sustainable SEL programming.

This hands-on training will include background information on SEL as well as large amounts of individual school team planning time. Teams at a variety of stages of implementation are encouraged to attend and use this time to plan SEL activities for next year with the assistance and support of experienced CASEL staff.

### Learning Objectives:

- A grounding in the theory and rationale behind social emotional learning (SEL) as a framework for school change and positive student development
- An understanding of the important role your school leader must play in high-quality and sustainable SEL implementation
- An understanding of the key steps in the implementation process as well as the ongoing activities that are essential at all stages for sustainability
- An idea of the stage your school has reached in the implementation process
- A plan for how to move forward with SEL programming in your school

**Registration Deadline: May 18, 2005.** Cost: \$300 for first 3 people, \$50/person after that up to 5 total participants or \$400/team. Cost includes: Preview copy of Implementation Guide for each participant, continental breakfast and lunch both days. Contact Elizabeth Devaney at CASEL at [edevaney@uic.edu](mailto:edevaney@uic.edu) or 312-355-0425 for more information and registration instructions.

---

## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- ***The Bill of Rights for Real Life***

The Bill of Rights Institute has announced the release of its newest curriculum resource, a ten-unit teacher's guide and DVD set. It is designed to lead non-college bound students toward a stronger and more explicit engagement in civil society. Applying techniques and strategies outlined in *The Civic Mission of Schools* – a report published by the University of Maryland's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) and the Carnegie Corporation – the curriculum teaches students the relevance of the Bill of Rights to their own lives.

Each lesson is tied to national history and civics standards and features reading tips to improve literacy, as well as a "Real Life Portal" to demonstrate the lesson's application to everyday life and gives students a meaningful understanding of the ways the U.S. Constitution affects their daily lives. For more information, call 800.838.7870, ext. 10, or visit their website at: [www.BillofRightsInstitute.org](http://www.BillofRightsInstitute.org).

- ***Nightlights: How Courage and Goodness Triumphed in an American Town***

A musical project for upper elementary and middle school students

Written by Janice I. Cohn, Music by Neil Fishman, Lyrics by Harvey Edelman

*Nightlights* is a musical based upon the award winning book, *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate* by Janice I. Cohn. Described by American Bookseller as "a must have book for all ages – child and adult," *The Christmas Menorahs* was chosen as a notable children's trade book in the field of social studies by The National Council for the Social Studies and The Children's Book Council which praised the story as "a powerful narrative about how two children, their families, and a community resolved to stand together against bigotry and hatred."

*Nightlights* incorporates drama, music and oral history to tell the true story of events which occurred in Billings, Montana, in 1993. It can easily be adapted into existing curriculums and/or staged as a full scale school theatrical production. For background information, a play synopsis, script excerpts, visit <http://www.nightlightsdramaproject.com/index.htm> or contact Dr. Cohn by phone at 973.509.0336; email: [info@nightlightsdramaproject.com](mailto:info@nightlightsdramaproject.com)