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CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List
March/April 2005 - Vol. #3

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.

In this issue of The Network:

- Application Deadline Nears for Aspiring Schools: Character Education Institute 2005
- Smart and Good High School Report To Be Made Available Digitally
- Spring and Summer Professional Development Opportunities
- Summer Grant Opportunities Still Available for Principals & Vice-Principals

FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

The NJCCE is very pleased to note that Acting Governor Richard Codey has included the New Jersey Character Education Partnership initiative state-aid funding in his proposed budget for FY 2006. The program remains level-funded at \$4.75 million, which represents a significant commitment for continued support of school district development of character education programs and services. However, the budget must be passed by the legislature, and this is a good time to let your representatives know what these continued resources mean to the ability of New Jersey educators to create caring school communities based on agreed upon core ethical values.

The NJCEP funds are used for many programs that come under the broad umbrella of character education, including programs in social skill development, bias reduction, conflict resolution, bullying prevention and peer mediation. For more information regarding what the NJCEP initiative has accomplished in its first three years, please see the Report on Year-Tree Outcomes that was drafted by NJCCE for the Department of Education and is now available on the Department website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/chared/outcomes/year3/>. The report shows how the level of

student participation documented by schools has increased threefold, from 270,377 students to more than 885,000 students. The report also includes evaluation data from selected schools and heartfelt and compelling testimonials from educators, parents and students regarding the importance of character education in their professional and personal lives.

Please consider supporting the continuation of the NJCEP initiative funding that can make a real difference in the climate and safety of New Jersey schools.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.
Director

CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- **Smart & Good High Schools Report Coming Soon**
Thomas Lickona, Ph.D. and Matthew Davidson, Ph.D.
Center for the 4th and 5th Rs (Respect and Responsibility)
State University of New York at Cortland
Drawing on theory, research, and on-the-ground practitioner wisdom, including a national study of exemplary schools, *Smart & Good High Schools – A Report to the Nation* describes promising classroom and schoolwide practices that can help to foster specific outcomes within an ethical learning community. The report describes practices that support these educational strategies by creating, on the staff level, a professional ethical learning community.
Examples of educational and institutional practices include:
 - Ways to integrate performance and moral character across the curriculum
 - Connecting character and learning standards
 - Strategies for creating a caring community in the classroom
 - Discipline practices that strengthen character
 - Creating small learning communities
 - Classroom and schoolwide practices that promote academic integrity
 - Creating a professional and ethical learning community
 - Strategies for building character through sports
 - Strategies from the "What Works in Character Education" review of evidence-based programs
 - Strategies for assessing the character of the school and the character development of students.

To pre-order your **FREE DIGITAL COPY** of Smart and Good High Schools, visit <http://web.cortland.edu/templeton>

See [PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) below for information on the New Jersey Smart & Good High Schools Regional Institute sponsored by NJCCE on June 3, 2005 at the National Conference Center in East Windsor, NJ.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **April 8, 2005 – NEW APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR ASPIRING SCHOOLS**
Character Education Institute 2005: Building Teams to Sustain Best Practices

May 17 & October 17, 2005

Raritan Valley Community College, Somerville, NJ

Presented by Raritan Valley Community College, The NJ Center for Character Education and Somerset County Superintendent of Schools

School teams who wish to participate in this 2-day Character Education Institute now have until **April 8** to submit applications. For more information and to download an application and guidelines, visit the Raritan Valley Community College website at: <http://www.raritanval.edu/cce/> or the NJCCE website at: <http://www.nj-charactered.net/>.

Program Description

The Conference will provide an opportunity for school teams to improve the quality of their program by pairing with a selected NJ Model School Team recognized for its Best Practices in Character Education.

To become familiar with each Model School's character education initiatives, read their program descriptions on the RVCC website at: http://www.raritanval.edu/cce/char_ed_program.htm.

The emphasis of the Institute will be on the organizational processes and practices that schools or district teams can use to develop and sustain effective character education and social-emotional learning programs. Approximately twenty Aspiring School Teams will be selected to participate. Two to three Aspiring School Teams will be matched with a Best Practice Model School Team for two full days of information-sharing, collaboration, and coaching. Together these teams will collaboratively explore the elements needed to build and sustain a quality character education initiative fostering positive school change and student development.

Together the teams will:

- Assess the status of current Character Education efforts in each Aspiring School,
- Identify the issues that the Aspiring School Teams want to address, and
- Develop an implementation plan for 2005-06 that will address the identified issues impacting the school culture.

For questions regarding the application process, contact Kristy Vukoder Phone: (908) 526-1200 X8367 - Fax: (908) 526-3576 - kvukoder@raritanval.edu. For questions regarding the Institute or Character Education issues, contact the NJ Center for Character Education at (732) 445-7504.

- **Educating Mind and Heart: Theory and Practice of Character Education**
Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character (CAEC) Spring Institute
April 15, 2005

Boston University

Guided by the teachings of great philosophers, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the process of helping students develop virtues -- good habits and dispositions that lead to wise and responsible choices. Offered to K-12 teachers and administrators, the institute will explore character education and its integration in classroom curricula and school culture. For a downloadable application visit the CAEC website at:

http://www.bu.edu/education/caec/files/springinstitute_05.htm. For more information, call Megan Uy at (617) 353-3262 or email caec@bu.edu.

- **From My Classroom to Yours – Classroom Innovations**
Fifth Annual Conference Presented by The Southern Regional Institute and Educational

Technology Training Center (ETTC)

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

This conference, held on the Pomona Campus of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, will provide teachers, technology coordinators and educational administrators with current information on the changing role teachers play in the 21st Century Classroom and on "best practices" for teaching and learning. Participants will learn firsthand of successful and proven learning activities that directly integrate technology and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards into classroom learning.

One of five topic areas, the Character Education strand is offering presentations on the following topics:

- 5th Grade Character Education through the Year!
- Curriculum and School Culture Change through Character Education
- Organizational Skills for the Classroom
- Reaching the Ceiling of Understanding in Ethics Education
- Strategies to Eliminate Bullying, Increase Respect and Build Community
- The Caring Classroom

Conference co-sponsors are: The Garden State Distance Learning Consortium, The New Jersey Statewide Systemic Initiative, The New Jersey Center for Character Education, and The New Jersey Association for Educational Technology.

For more information and details on registration, visit the conference website at:

<http://www.etc.net/conference2005/index.htm>, or call Dina Abbamondi at (609) 625-6040 or send e-mail to etc@stockton.edu.

- **Philosophy for Children Summer Seminars 2005**

The Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children

May 22-31 (Advanced Seminar)

August 17 – 27 (Introductory Seminar)

St. Marguerite's Retreat House

Mendham, New Jersey

The Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children (IAPC) announces its annual Summer Seminars in Philosophy for Children: an Advanced Seminar May 22-31 and an Introductory Seminar August 17-27. The IAPC Summer Seminars bring together faculty and graduate students from Montclair State University and school teachers, professors and other visiting scholars from around the world, for ten days of intensive study, dialogue and production. The seminars provide MSU graduate students with credits towards their degree; provide school teachers with professional development; provide Philosophy for Children specialists a venue for reporting on their work; assist US and international scholars to bring P4C to their communities; and provide all involved with experience in a community of philosophical inquiry.

Direct inquiries to Assistant Director Joanne Matkowskij: matkowskij@mail.montclair.edu; (973) 655-4278. For more information visit:

<http://frontpage.montclair.edu/iapc/SummerSeminarsFlyer.htm>.

- **Save the Date!**

Smart & Good High Schools Comes to New Jersey on June 3

National Conference Center

East Windsor, NJ

The New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCCE) has agreed to serve as a Regional Institute Host Organization and has scheduled the first New Jersey Smart & Good High Schools Regional Institute for June 3, 2005 at the National Conference Center in East Windsor, NJ (located off Exit 8 of the NJ Turnpike). At this day-long institute, participants will get an overview of the findings and key ideas of the report, including performance character, moral character, and an ethical learning community; examine illustrative promising practices that contribute to the 8 strengths of character; and create dialogue about the implications of these findings for implementing high school reform that integrates excellence and ethics. Details and registration information will be available soon on our website and also through this Network Listserv.

- **The Center for Social and Emotional Education (CSEE)**
8th Annual Summer Institute 2005
July 12-15, 2005
The Graduate School and University Center
City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10016
 CSEE's four-day Institute focuses on ways educators can establish effective, high quality social emotional education (SEE) and character education programs in schools. The research-based social emotional/character education work presented at the Institute will synthesize research findings and practice from the following overlapping fields: health promotion, risk prevention, service learning, school-based mental health and effective citizenry. For detailed information about the institute as well as the (optional) linked 3-credit academic course in Social, Emotional and Academic Education, visit their website at: <http://www.csee.net/projects/institutes.aspx>

- **Community of Caring Annual Summer Conference**
July 30 – August 1, 2005
San Francisco Airport Westin Hotel
San Francisco, California
 Participants from throughout the United States and Canada will explore the theme of "*Legacy of Leadership*" focusing on the goal of making a difference in our communities today and in the future. Registration is open to all who are interested in furthering their current character education initiatives. Find more information about the conference at the Community of Caring website: www.communityofcaring.org or contact the Community of Caring national office at: (801)587-8990 or contact@communityofcaring.org.

CHARACTER EDUCATION RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

- **Sexual Harassment Seminars Available**
Presented by Legal Staff of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators
 Recent events and court decisions make it clear that school districts must provide continuing education to all staff on the issues of sexual and other forms of harassment. The Legal Staff of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators provides concise, up-to-date programs on harassment based not only on sex, but on race, disability, religion, sexual orientation and other forms of illegal discrimination. Seminars may be scheduled in your own school district for all district personnel or for customized groups. Seminar discussions cover topics such as harassment based on sexual orientation, bullying, inappropriate computer usage, investigations, reporting

requirements, and hate crimes.

Contact Melissa R. Vance at mvance@njasa.net or call: (609) 599-2900 ext 116 for seminar costs and booking information.

- **Sixth Annual Stamp Out Hate Teen Conference**

Sunday, April 10, 2005

2:00 – 4:30 pm

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

1025 South Orange Avenue

Short Hills, NJ

Sponsored by The Stamp Out Hate Coalition, the Annual Teen Conference is for 9th through 12th graders from varied backgrounds. The key feature of the Conference is a documentary film, “Shadow of Hate,” produced by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The stories told in the film describe events in U.S. history in which intolerance arose from the fear, suspicion and anger of ordinary people—the same impulses that still cause discord today. After viewing the film, teens are divided into small discussion groups, each with an experienced facilitator, to discuss issues raised in the feature presentation and incidents of bias that they have experienced in their daily lives.

For more information, contact The American Jewish Committee at 973-379-7844 or e-mail newjersey@ajc.org.

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Limited Number of Summer Character Education Grants Still Available for Principals/Vice-Principals**

The Principals' Center for the Garden State still has a limited number of \$5000 grants available for a special priority project category in Character Education. This is an outstanding opportunity for New Jersey's public school leaders to pursue a project that reflects a passion for their own professional growth and a commitment to developing their ability to effect change for both the children and adults in their school through character education.

Each winning project will respond to a specific leadership challenge in the applicant's school, and will result in educational benefits to both the applicant and his/her learning community. \$5000 grants will be awarded. \$3,500 of the award will support the winning project; \$1,500 of the award will cover the applicant's tuition for the Principals' Center's Summer Leadership Institute which will be held July 18-22, 2005.

Principals or Vice-Principals interested in this opportunity should call Dr. Philip M. Brown, Director of the New Jersey Center for Character Education **no later than April 8** (732.445.7504)

- **MetLife Foundation Bridge Builders Grant**

(Administered by The National Association of Secondary School Principals)

The National Association of Secondary School Principals invites proposals from public middle level and high schools serving large numbers of low-income students and underrepresented minorities (greater than 40% of student body) to apply for a \$5,000 mini-grant to implement a special initiative aimed at strengthening ties between their schools and their students' neighborhoods and

communities. As emphasized in *Breaking Ranks II: Strategies for Leading High School Reform* (NASSP, 2004), building relationships to personalize the educational experience for each student is fundamental to student success. A component of personalization is understanding and appreciating the student's role in the larger context of the family and community.

Previous grant-funded school initiatives have included participation in government and community, tolerance, and multicultural awareness. Proposals must be postmarked by April 16, 2005. For more information on the proposal process and selection criteria, visit:

http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=568&DID=48228

WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- *The Hero Book: Learning Lessons from the People You Admire*

The Hero Book: Learning Lessons from the People You Admire is a new book for young readers ages 6 to 11. This book invites children to think about the qualities that make people admirable and takes them on a journey to find positive role models and discover the hero inside themselves. *The Hero Book* is also a resource that lends itself to fulfill numerous State and National Content standards in the classroom. The free Teacher's Guide includes lesson plans in character education, language arts, social studies and other areas.

The Hero Book is currently being offered at a discounted price for those ordering now. To learn more about the book, view sample pages, see the Teacher's Guide, or place a book order, go to www.wateringcanpress.com. To contact the Publisher directly and inquire about bulk order discounts, email ellen@wateringcanpress.com.