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CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List October/November 2005 - Vol. #7

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:

- From the NJCCE Director
- NJ Schools Capture National Awards
- More Eleven Principles Sourcebook Trainings Planned for Spring 2006
- New NJ School of Character Award Program Announced
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- *Smart & Good High Schools* Publication Now Available
- The Josephson Institute Offers Free Report on Ethics

FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

It was such a treat to be at the premiere national conference on character education (Character Education Partnership 12th National Forum) and have New Jersey schools, some of whom we have worked with intensively, receive the recognition they deserve (see Character Education News). The recognition is a sign of how our field is maturing as a way of supporting the positive developmental outcomes we all hope for as educators. One of the things we have learned in this

regard is that it is vitally important to have point people who are professionally invested in the development of character in their students. We also know from years of often painful experience that no one educator is sufficient to make the changes in school culture that are necessary to ensure that character education becomes an ingrained part of the life of a school; it takes a team, a professional learning community to make it happen. So, our NJCCE hats are off to the teams of educators who have submitted their work for public scrutiny and have successfully helped shine the spotlight on our good work in New Jersey and, more importantly, for their success in supporting the development of whole children who can do their best work and be their best selves in school and beyond.

Philip Brown, Ph.D.
Director

CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- **NJ schools capture national character education 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. At this year's CEP Forum in Atlanta, Georgia, New Jersey was once again in the limelight, with one National School of Character Finalist and 19 schools capturing twenty-two Promising Practice Citations (21% of all the citations given in 2005).

We congratulate this year's recipients and urge everyone to visit the CEP website at <http://www.character.org/> to download a free copy of CEP's newly published *2005 National Schools of Character: Award-Winning Practices*. Over 100 Promising Practices programs are described, including all of the NJ programs listed below. In each of the program descriptions, you will find unique and specific strategies in character education that address one or more of the *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education*.

2005 National School of Character Finalist

Yeshiva of North Jersey
Students on "The Right Path"
Grades PreK-8, Parochial (Jewish Orthodox)
River Edge, NJ

2005 Promising Practice Citation Recipients

Avenel Street School
Friday Friends
Grades K-5
Avenel, NJ

Barclay Brook School
Top Cooperator
Grades PreK-2
Monroe Township, NJ

Christa McAuliffe School

"Sharing the Spirit"

Grades K-8

Jersey City, NJ

Dr. Charles P. De Fuccio School

Character Education through Literature

Grades PreK-8

Jersey City, NJ

Ezra L. Nolan Middle School

Building Bridges Program

Grades 6-8

Jersey City, NJ

Fred W. Martin School

Problem Solving Lab

Grades K-8

Jersey City, NJ

Highland Park School District

Social Decision Making Lab

Grades K-12

Highland Park, NJ

Joseph H. Brensinger, PS 17

Peer-to-Peer Leadership Corps

Grades PreK-8

Jersey City, NJ

Lincoln High School

Poetry Circle

Grades 9-12

Jersey City, NJ

Maude Wilkins Elementary School (4 Promising Practices)

1. *Action Levels: A Guide to Behavioral Expectations*

2. *Character Week*

3. *Recess Reflection Journals*

4. *Spotlighting Poems*

Grades 3-4

Maple Shade, NJ

Memorial Middle School

Character Cavalcade

Grades 6-8

Fair Lawn, NJ

Pequannock Valley Middle School

Take Action

Grades 6-8
Pompton Plains, NJ

Radix Elementary School
Core Values through Class Meetings
Williamstown, NJ

Robert Frost Elementary School
Focus on Learning
East Brunswick, NJ

Robert R. Lazar Middle School
Anti-Bullying/Teasing Campaign
Montville, NJ

South Amboy Elementary School
Character Education Calendar
South Amboy, NJ

Thomas B. Conley School
Kids CARE: An Anti-Bullying Campaign
Asbury, NJ

Zane-North Elementary School
C.H.A.T 20 (Conversation Helps All Triumph)
Collingswood, NJ

- **New Jersey Pilots CEP state level School of Character**
The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE) are pleased to announce the creation of the New Jersey School of Character Award Program (NJSOC). Modeled after the National Schools of Character Awards Program sponsored by the Character Education Partnership (CEP), the NJSOC program will recognize one K-12 school or district annually for demonstrating outstanding character education initiatives that yield positive results in student behavior, school climate, and academic performance. In addition to receiving the New Jersey School of Character award, the NJSOC recipient will advance to the national level competition.

Three workshops will be offered regionally throughout New Jersey to review the NJSOC program guidelines and provide technical assistance in how to prepare a successful application. Technical assistance workshop dates and locations are as follows:

NJ School of Character Technical Assistance Workshops

Date: Friday, November 18
Time: 3:15pm to 4:00pm
Location: Cumberland County College, Conference Center, Vineland, NJ

Date: Thursday, December 1
Time: 3:15pm to 4:00pm
Location: Cook Campus Center, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Date: Friday, December 9

Time: 3:15pm to 4:00pm

Location 1: a) KEAN UNIVERSITY, Alumni House, Union, NJ

Location 1: b) Learning Resource Center, North Satellite, Morris Plains, NJ

Date: Tuesday, December 13

Time: 3:15pm to 4:00pm

Location: Busch Campus Center, RUTGERS

Applications must be postmarked no later than January 16, 2006. For more details including program guidelines, eligibility, benefits and NJSOC application, visit the NJCCE website at <http://www.nj-charactered.net/>.

- **PACES Project Launches Collaborative Effort**

Twenty-two schools interested in sharing and developing their service-learning programs are embarking on a unique collaborative adventure. Using state-of-the-art teleconferencing technology for consultation and staff development, and the online collaborative learning environment software called Sakai, six Mentor schools will share digital portfolios with their partners, representing the history and outcomes of the schools' service learning programs.

The PACES Project collaborating teams are:

Cranford High School will mentor:

Kittatinny Regional High School

Marlboro High School

Wallington Jr/Sr High School

Delsea High School will mentor:

Egg Harbor Twp High School

Lindenwold High School

Woodstown High School

Delsea Middle School will mentor:

Lake Riviera Middle School

Veterans Memorial

Iselin Middle School will mentor:

Carl W Goetz Middle School

Linwood Middle School

Montgomery Upper Middle School

Linden High School will mentor:

Alexander Hamilton Academy

Long Branch High School

Ocean County Vocational & Technical School will mentor:

Howell High School

John F. Kennedy High School

Passaic County Technical Institute

Designed to enable service-learning to reach a greater number of students and increase the quality of service-learning programs, the PACES project, (a Partnership for Advancing Character Education through Service-Learning) will be showcased at the May 25, 2006 statewide Character Education Conference to be held at Rutgers University.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Eleven Principles Sourcebook Trainings**

In our role as CEP's first state pilot affiliate, NJCCE is offering eight professional development institutes and seminars based on CEP's *Eleven Principles Sourcebook* throughout this coming 2005-06 school year.

Although all fall 2005 regional Institutes have already reached their registration capacities, three additional regional Institutes are being scheduled for spring 2006. Two more Institutes are being offered with enrollment open to all educators. Registration for spring 2006 Institutes will be offered online shortly through the NJDOE Professional Development and Technical Assistance website at: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>. Click on the link to *Details* for a full description of the Institute, including dates, times, and directions to the training location. NJ Character Education Partnership (NJCEP) state aid funds may be used to cover the cost of registration and to purchase the training manual.

NJCCE also offers schools and districts the Eleven Principles Sourcebook training in a seminar format, customized to reflect a school or district's unique needs. Trainings can be scheduled in a one- or two-day format and delivered in-house or at a location determined by the school or district. For more information, contact NJCCE at 732.445.7504.

- **New Jersey Conference on Civic Education: Vision and Possibilities**

Monday, December 5, 2005

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Busch Student Center

Rutgers, The State University

Piscataway, NJ

Sponsored by the NJ Coalition to Support the Civic Mission of the Schools and the New Jersey Center for Character Education, the purpose of the Conference on Civic Education is to:

- Inform participants of the current status of civic learning in New Jersey schools
- Discuss business, community and public policy perspectives on why civic education is needed
- Consider state and local policy changes that may be necessary to ensure that civic education programs are designed to prepare students to be citizens in a democratic society
- Demonstrate promising civic education programs
- Develop local civic education action plans.

Individuals or local teams are invited to participate. Teams might include a teacher, a school administrator, a high school student, a parent, a member of a local business organization, a member of a local civic or community organization and a municipal, county, state or federal public policy maker (legislator, mayor, council person, freeholder, etc.). For additional

information or to register, call 732-445-3413 or visit <http://civiced.rutgers.edu>, click “Civic Mission.”

- **Save the Date!**
Statewide Character Education Conference slated for **May 25, 2006**
More details will follow in upcoming NETWORK listserv mailings.

NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **National Schools of Character Program Seeks 2006 Applicants**
Applications for the *2006 National Schools of Character* (NSOC) awards program, now in its 9th year, are available from the Character Education Partnership (CEP). NSOC is an awards program that recognizes approximately ten K-12 schools and districts annually for demonstrating outstanding character education initiatives that yield positive results in student behavior, school climate, and academic performance. Although National Schools of Character differ in method, content, and scope, all emphasize core ethical values, such as honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring, and all are exemplary models of CEP’s *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education*. Schools and districts interested in applying for the award need to submit a narrative, a portfolio, and a self-assessment using CEP’s *Character Education Quality Standards*, the scoring rubric that judges use to determine the award recipients each year. Selected schools and districts are honored at CEP’s annual forum in October and featured in CEP’s annual book/CD and on CEP’s Web site. They receive a cash award of \$2,000 to use for outreach and to support their initiatives. **Applications are due December 5, 2005.**

Applications for *Promising Practices* awards are also available and **due on March 15, 2006**. Schools or districts may submit a *specific* and *unique* best practice for review. If selected, they receive an award citation and the practice is included in CEP’s annual book/CD. They also receive a copy of the book/CD.

Support for NSOC is made possible by the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources. For more information, call CEP at 800-988-8081 or 202-296-7743, ext. 10.

Applications and the *Character Education Quality Standards* can be downloaded from the CEP Web site at www.character.org.

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Olympus And Tool Factory Grants**
Five grants sponsored by Olympus America Inc. and Tool Factory Inc. are available for K-12 educators who demonstrate creative use of digital cameras and software. Each grant recipient will win \$3,500 in prizes, which include digital cameras, software, and a \$500 cash award; applications are due December 30. For more information, visit www.toolfactory.com/olympus_contest.

WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- **Free Report on Ethics at Your High School**

The Josephson Institute is conducting a nationwide survey on teen values and behavior.

Interested schools can sign up and The Josephson Institute will mail the surveys to the school. After students fill them out, the school sends them back in a postage-paid envelope provided by The Institute. In return, the Josephson Institute will send the school a free confidential report comparing the school's results with the national averages.

Read more and sign up at: www.JosephsonInstitute.org/reportcard.

- **CEP Redesigns Website**

The rich content previously found on the Character Education Partnership (CEP) website at (<http://www.character.org>) has recently been refreshed. The newly designed website provides easy access to valuable resources such as professional development opportunities, publications, and character education links. For example, the new character education blog

is an on-line forum dedicated to the people in the fields of character education and youth development. It offers opportunities for dialogs in the following categories:

- Best Practices
- CE Books
- CE in Middle Schools
- Community Based Character Initiatives
- Core Values and CE Curriculum Development
- Developing a CE Program
- Multiculturalism & CE
- Parents & CE
- Teachers & CE

Archived discussions are also available.

- ***Smart & Good High Schools* Bound Copies Now Available**

Smart & Good High Schools is a national study of American high schools—including site visits to 24 diverse schools, hundreds of interviews, a comprehensive research review, and the input of a National Experts Panel and a National Student Leaders Panel. The report offers a vision of educational excellence and nearly 100 promising practices designed to foster human flourishing over a lifetime. From the research, two major conclusions are drawn:

- 1) There is national consensus regarding the need for character— doing our best work, doing the right thing, living a life of purpose.
- 2) Smart & Good High Schools educate for character— both performance character and moral character.

Bound copies of the *Smart & Good High Schools: Integrating Excellence and Ethics for Success in School, Work, and Beyond* are now available for \$11.95. Discounts for bulk orders are also available.

To order a bound copy, contact:

New Jersey Center for Character Education
 Rutgers University – Center for Applied Psychology/GSAPP
 41 Gordon Road, Suite A
 Piscataway, NJ 08854-8067
 Phone: (732) 445-7504

or

Character Development Group, Inc.
 P.O. Box 35136
 Greensboro, NC 27425-5136

Phone: (888) 262-0572

Email: info@charactereducation.com

www.charactereducation.com

- **Hamilton Fish Institute**

The Hamilton Fish Institute on School and Community Violence provides information, research, and support to make schools safer for high achievement. The Institute focuses its efforts in the following areas:

- Analyzing and developing the most effective ways to prevent and reduce violence in and around schools.
- Testing promising prevention strategies in rural, suburban and urban schools grappling with violence.
- Disseminating its findings throughout the country to assist other policy makers, states, schools, police departments, teachers, parents and youths to adopt the successful strategies.

Comprehensive information and resources are given in topics ranging from character education, bullying, anger management, conflict resolution, gangs, crisis management, to dating and sexual violence. For example, there are several links to websites with online character education lesson plans for grade levels K-12.

The Hamilton Fish Institute is administered by The George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development and funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. For more information, visit their website at:

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