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**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2005 4:38 PM  
**Subject:** CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online - 2005 Vol. #6

## **CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List September 2005 - Vol. #6**

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
- State Aid Allocations for the 2005-06 School Year
- New On-line Character Education Profile Directory
- Fall Professional Development Opportunities
- National Schools of Character Program Seeks 2006 Applicants
- Constitution Day - free educational and programming materials

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## **FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR**

### Katrina Reflections

Welcome back to the New Jersey Character Education Network online newsletter and an especially hearty welcome to those new readers for whom this is a first issue. We enter the new school year with the excitement and promise of being able to guide and support the intellectual, social, physical and moral growth of the children entrusted to us. We also enter the year, as do many of our children, with heavy hearts and worried minds because of the suffering of our fellow citizens on the gulf coast who have been the victims of hurricane Katrina. Children watch us, as their models, for how we are

responding to this catastrophe in word and deed. They need to understand the distress and pain as well as the anger they witness daily on TV and in other media.

As all experienced educators know, teachable moments come in all sizes, shapes and times. Recognizing the feelings and deep questions our students have about the affects of the hurricane when they occur, and discussing the events of the past couple weeks in the safety of the classroom can be an important way to begin the new year. Schools that have a tradition of community service and service learning activities will be able to respond as individuals, classrooms and learning communities to bring awareness and the practice of compassion in responding to the devastation and disruption Katrina has inflicted on countless lives.

It is also important that older students face the disturbing questions raised by what British commentator Gerard Baker pointed to as the inherent inequality of suffering. Civics and social studies instruction must not shrink from the hard issues that Katrina brings to us about our nation's priorities, goals and how we organize our social structure and the distribution of opportunity and wealth and safety. The final lesson about this terrible disaster has not been written yet, but our lessons with our students should always end by pointing to the natural response we have to help others, our true natures as caring people, and that this is a proud American tradition. It is also a time to emphasize the essentially healthy quality of human existence that the child psychiatrist D.W. Winnicott called "going on being."

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse has collected resources and tools to help students and teachers develop a service-learning or community service project to assist with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

Visit [http://www.servicelearning.org/nslc/hurricane\\_katrina/index.php](http://www.servicelearning.org/nslc/hurricane_katrina/index.php) to find listings of organizations to join; lesson plans on fundraising, hurricanes, floods, and the culture of the areas affected; and stories of what students are doing to help. An opportunity to submit ideas and stories regarding the relief effort is also included.

### In this Issue

- The NJCCE is proud to announce that it has reached an agreement with Character Education Partnership (CEP) to serve as their first state pilot affiliate. As part of our agreement, we will be offering professional development institutes and seminars based on CEP's *Eleven Principles Sourcebook* (see *Professional Development Opportunities* section below).
- Schools interested in developing service-learning programs that reinforce the curriculum while fostering character education will have an opportunity to apply to join the PACES Project, co-sponsored by The New Jersey Learn and Serve America Program and NJCCE. Applications are due by October 11, 2005 and will be available via a Special Announcement to all Network listserv members. (For details, see the *Character Education News* section below.)
- As a part of the Rutgers University activities celebrating the appearance of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, to give an address on Peace, War and Reconciliation, the NJCCE will be posting elementary and secondary level lesson plans on the website of our host organization, the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (see *National Character Education Opportunities* section).
- Please note the information under *Resources and Research* regarding the new federal requirement that all schools celebrate September 17<sup>th</sup> as "Constitution Day" by providing appropriate instruction. This year, as September 17<sup>th</sup> is a Saturday, the instruction should occur on

September 16<sup>th</sup>. While this is an example of a well-intended mandate that may interfere with the planned course of instruction and drives good educators to distraction, it is an opportunity to review and emphasize civic education as a core part of the purpose of schooling.

We at the NJCCE wish you all the best for wonderful school year.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.  
Director

## CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- **State Aid Allocations Forthcoming for the 2005-06 School Year**

This past school year completes the fifth year of the *New Jersey Character Education Partnership (NJCEP) Initiative*. The good news is that the State FY 2006 budget has made available \$4.75 million for the *NJCEP Initiative* for program development, implementation and expansion during the 2005-06 school year.

The purpose of this voluntary state aid initiative is to support public school educators in their adoption of high quality character education programs that will provide direction and leadership that engenders personal responsibility and respect for others among students and school staff. The infusion of developmentally appropriate character education programs will foster positive youth development and create a caring, supportive and orderly school climate that will promote student success.

All school districts, educational services commissions, special services school districts, jointure commissions, charter schools, state facilities, and the Katzenbach School for the Deaf will receive state aid to maintain or expand character education programs, services, and activities.

The FY06 Character Education Application for state aid funding will soon be available on the NJDOE Website at <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/chared>. Questions regarding the *New Jersey Character Education Partnership (NJCEP) Initiative* can be e-mailed to [charactereducation@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:charactereducation@doe.state.nj.us).

- **New Jersey On-line Character Education Profile Directory**

Recently, the NJDOE asked the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE) to redesign the *Character Education Program Resources Profile Directory* as an on-line searchable database. We are pleased to announce an October launch of the first version of the *New Jersey On-line Character Education Profile Directory*. The *Online Profile Directory* will be found on the homepage of the New Jersey Center for Character Education website at: <http://www.nj-charactered.net/>

The *Online Profile Directory* will continue to provide a comprehensive listing of character education programs and resources, but it will also provide school district personnel with a more flexible method of acquiring the specific information they need to select, implement and evaluate character education programs, services and activities that are suitable for their schools and will address their unique needs.

Later this Fall 2005, the *On-line Profile Directory* will also offer educators a searchable database option

that will display a customized list of profiles matching all criteria selected. Educators will be able to search the *On-line Profile Directory* by selecting key search criteria such as: program or resource category; audience served or impacted; program or resource focus, including specific fields which address dimensions of student growth and development such as values & virtues; life skills; physical, mental and emotional health; socially negative behaviors; and community involvement.

- **The PACES Project: A Partnership for Advancing Character Education through Service**  
The New Jersey Learn and Serve America Program, managed by the NJ Department of State has entered into a partnership with the NJCCE to establish six school partnership teams that will collaborate during the 2005-06 school year to develop high-quality service-learning programs that will advance character education through service. In the PACES Project, each cohort will consist of a Mentor School, recognized as a “National Service-Learning Leader School,” and approximately three “Aspiring Schools” interested in developing service-learning programs that reinforce the curriculum while fostering character education.

The Mentor and Aspiring Schools will form collegial relationships that will:

- Encourage the sharing of strategies and possibilities for service-learning through the collaborative exchange of ideas, experiences and resources,
- Support the development of effective initiatives through on-site visits, phone contact, videoconferencing and Web-based teleconferencing,
- Aid in identifying the needs of each Aspiring School and its community, and in designing service-learning initiatives that meet these needs while addressing the Core Curriculum Standards,
- Enhance the creation of digital portfolios describing their journeys into service-learning, and
- Establish valid assessments of their programs.

Character\_Education\_Network listserv members will receive a Special Announcement containing more information and application guidelines for school teams interested in applying for selection as an “Aspiring School”. The deadline for applying is **October 11, 2005**.

For more information, contact the PACES Project Coordinator, Eileen Dachnowicz, at [edachnowicz@verizon.net](mailto:edachnowicz@verizon.net) or call 908. 233.5997.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Coming Soon to NJ Character Educators:  
Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education™ Sourcebook Institutes**  
In our role as CEP's first state pilot affiliate, NJCCE will be offering eight professional development institutes and seminars based on CEP's *Eleven Principles Sourcebook* throughout this coming 2005-06 school year.

Six of the *Eleven Principles Institutes*, will be specially tailored for designated district character education coordinators and will be offered in north, central and south regional locations. NJ Character Education Partnership (NJCEP) state aid funds may be used to cover the cost of registration and to purchase the training manual. There will also be two Institutes offered with enrollment open to all educators.

Institutes are being scheduled for fall 2005 and spring 2006 and dates will be confirmed shortly via a

special announcement to the Network Listserv. Registration will be offered online through the NJDOE Professional Development and Technical Assistance website at: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>. For more information, contact NJCCE at 732.445.7504.

- **Responsive Classroom®**  
 Northeast Foundation for Children  
 Thursday, October 13, 2005  
 8 am to 3:15 pm  
 Ewing, NJ  
 One-day workshop for elementary teachers introducing the principles of the Responsive Classroom® approach for creating safe, challenging, and joyful classrooms. Participants will gain an overview of Responsive Classroom® and two of its key components: Morning Meeting and Rules and Logical Consequences.  
 To register or for more information go to [www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org) or call 800-360-6332, ext. 130
  
- *Destination Afterschool: Your Passport to Success*  
 The 2005 New Jersey School Age Care Coalition Annual Afterschool Conference  
 November 11-12, 2005  
 Doral Forrestal Conference Center  
 100 College Road East  
 Princeton, NJ 08540  
 Featuring over 50 workshops covering a wide range of afterschool program and youth development topics, the conference will feature interactive demonstrations and offer opportunities to network with other school-age care professionals throughout the state.  
  
 The Conference is presented in partnership with the National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST). For more information call 908-789-0259 or [sac@njsacc.org](mailto:sac@njsacc.org).

## NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- "Peace, War, and Reconciliation"  
 A lecture by the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet  
 September 25, 2005  
 10:30 a.m.  
 Rutgers Stadium  
 Piscataway, NJ  
 Rutgers University will welcome His Holiness the Dalai Lama, an internationally respected advocate of peace, to deliver the public lecture "Peace, War, and Reconciliation" on Sunday, September 25, 2005, at 10:30 a.m. at Rutgers Stadium in Piscataway, NJ. This is a unique opportunity for students to see a world leader who has become an effective, devoted spokesperson for issues of human rights, moral leadership and social justice.  
  
 NJCCE in collaboration with Steve Missal, Supervisor of Social Studies and Character Education Coordinator for Plainfield Public Schools, and noted author, Naomi Drew are developing two lesson plans for teachers to use, aligned with the social studies Core Curriculum Content Standards in association with the Dalai Lama's speech and visit. A special notice will be sent to the Network

listserv when the lesson plans become available. For more information about this event, visit the Rutgers University website at: <http://www.presidentrutgers.edu/dalailama/> or to purchase tickets, call 866/445-4678.

- **Character Education Partnership (CEP)**

2005 National Forum

“Building Cultures of Character”

October 20-22, 2005

Hilton Atlanta Hotel

Atlanta, Georgia

This is the premier Character Education national conference and Network members are encouraged to consider attending. For information on keynote speakers, workshops, special events, activities, and registration details, visit the CEP website at [www.character.org](http://www.character.org). Special Pre-Conference Training Event: Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education™ Sourcebook Institute - October 19, 2005. Register by September 16, 2005 for discounted rates.

- **National Schools of Character Program Seeks 2006 Applicants**

Applications for the *2006 National Schools of Character* (NSOC) awards program, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.character.org).

## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- **Websites**

CETAC Online, the Character Education and Civic Engagement Technical Assistance Center (CETAC) announces its new website. The URL for the website is <http://www.cetac.org>.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS), CETAC Online provides State program administrators, local educators, and the public with information on character education and civic engagement, as well as strategies that support academic goals and other reform efforts.

CETAC's objective is to provide technical assistance on implementing effective character education and civic engagement to U.S. Department of Education-Partnerships in Character Education Program grantees and to serve as a resource for grantees, educators, parents, and the community at large. CETAC Online contains information for users on legislative changes, current research, news and events.

### **The Challenge Newsletter**

The newsletter provides critical information and resources to assist schools in creating safe and healthy environments for young people. Published by The Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, the Summer 2004 issue of *The Challenge* newsletter (Vol. 12, No.4) focused on character education, civic engagement, and service learning, with articles such as:

- Character and Citizenship: Are Schools Safe without Them?
- Communities and Schools Work Together to Build Children's Character
- High Schools Invited to Recognize Students for Service, Citizenship
- What Works in Character Education?
- Building Healthy School Environments
- Good Ideas
- Prevention Library

To download past issues of the newsletter, visit [www.thechallenge.org](http://www.thechallenge.org). (Past Issues of The Challenge are available in two formats. You can read individual articles in any issue by clicking on the article title OR you can download an Acrobat PDF file of the entire issue.)

### **What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)**

Funded and administered by the U.S. Department of Education, WWC was instituted in order to build a national clearinghouse on the effectiveness of a wide range of programs and strategies to improve education outcomes. As a decision-making tool, the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) helps the education community locate and recognize credible and reliable evidence to make informed decisions.

WWC has initiated work to conduct a review of research on character education interventions. The review will be a high-profile effort to judge the effectiveness of the interventions and to inform the field about "what works" in character education. At present, the WWC is inviting submissions of studies to be considered for review. More information about the WWC is available online at [www.whatworks.ed.gov](http://www.whatworks.ed.gov).

### **The Bill of Rights Institute Website Redesigned**

A redesign of the website has been completed to help educators access instructional materials, educational resources, and daily headlines related to the Bill of Rights. New features include:

- Easier navigation and searching
- Online seminar registration
- New online product catalog
- Updated listings of free lessons

Visit the new site at: [www.BillofRigthsInstitute.org](http://www.BillofRigthsInstitute.org).

- **Resources**

On May 24, 2005, the Federal Register published a Notice of Implementation of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on September 17 of Each Year. Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement announced that, pursuant to legislation passed by Congress, educational institutions receiving Federal funding are required to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year. (For further information on the federal requirement, contact: Alex Stein, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 4W218, Washington, DC 20202-2110. Telephone: Alex Stein 202-205-9085 or Peggi Zelinko 202-260-2614 (202) 205-9085 or email: [constitutionday@ed.gov](mailto:constitutionday@ed.gov).)

*The Bill of Rights Institute* is offering free educational and programming materials to schools to help them organize events to commemorate Constitution Day, scheduled for this year on September 16, 2005. Visit [www.BillofRightsInstitute.org](http://www.BillofRightsInstitute.org) to access:

- Two Constitution less plans: one for high school and one for middle school
- A biographical essay about James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, that includes an audio component
- A Founders Gallery featuring images of the Founders
- Lesson plan about the Bill of Rights
- Media-focused lesson plan on the First Amendment

- **Research**

*CASEL Connections E-Newsletter* relates important new educational and prevention-science research findings, provides details on effective classroom, school-wide, and district SEL practices, shares SEL-related federal and state legislation and funding opportunities, and keeps readers informed about new CASEL initiatives and projects. If interested, visit the CASEL website ([www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org)) to join “Friends of CASEL FCASEL listserv.”

- **Articles**

(Articles may require registration for online access or charge a reprint fee.)

**“No Emotion Left Behind”**

By Timothy P. Shriver and Roger P. Weissberg

*New York Times*

Published on August 16, 2005

The article discusses how promoting students' social and emotional skills plays a critical role in improving their academic performance. (This article is available on the CASEL website at: <http://www.casel.org/home/index.php>.)

**“Why We Must Fix the No Child Left Behind Law”**

By Betty J. Sternberg Commentary By Betty J. Sternberg

Commissioner of Education for the state of Connecticut

*Education Week*, June 15, 2005 issue (Vol. 40, Issue 24, Pages 31-32)

The article discusses what must be done to address the unacceptably large differences in achievement among subgroups of children.

- **ING Unsung Heroes**

The ING Unsung Heroes awards program recognizes kindergarten through 12th grade educators nationwide for their innovative teaching methods, creative educational projects, and ability to make a positive influence on the children they teach. The program, founded by ING U.S. Financial Services, has awarded more than \$2.3 million to nearly 1,000 educators across the United States. Awards range from \$2,000-\$25,000 Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2006. To ensure impartiality, the 2006 program will again be managed by Scholarship America.

For information, visit: <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/about/connect/education/>. Questions regarding the awards program should be addressed to Scholarship America: Phone: (507) 931-1682 or (800) 537-4180; E-mail: [ing@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:ing@scholarshipamerica.org).

- **Disney Teacher Awards**

Disney is accepting nominations for America's most creative preK-12 teachers from public, private, and parochial schools. Nominations can be made online or by phone (1-877/282-8322) until October 15. Four honorees will be selected as outstanding teachers, and one will be named the 2006 Disney Teacher of the Year. Each honoree receives \$10,000, a \$5,000 grant for his or her school, and a six-day professional-development institute with the teacher's principal at the Walt Disney World Resort. At the institute, teachers share ideas to refine their innovative teaching approaches and learn how to engage other teachers to build an effective collaborative teaching culture at their school. For more information, visit [www.disneyhand.com](http://www.disneyhand.com).

- **Mattel Grants Program**

Mattel Children's Foundation makes grants available to charitable organizations throughout the U.S. that directly serve children in need. Recipients will be eligible for financial grants in amounts of \$5,000 to \$25,000, depending on program, organization and individual community need. Deadline for applying is September 30, 2005. For more information, contact them at [foundation@mattel.com](mailto:foundation@mattel.com) or visit their website at: [http://www.mattel.com/about\\_us/philanthropy/ci\\_mcf\\_philanthropy\\_grantmaking.asp](http://www.mattel.com/about_us/philanthropy/ci_mcf_philanthropy_grantmaking.asp)

- **SHOPA- Kids In Need Teacher Grants**

School, Home and Office Products Association (SHOPA) offers grants to provide funds for classroom teachers who have innovative, meritorious ideas but lack the budget to bring them to life. Projects may qualify for funding if they make creative use of common teaching aids, approach the curriculum from an imaginative angle, or tie nontraditional concepts together for the purpose of illustrating commonalities. Innovation and merit account for 40% of the evaluation. All certified K-12 teachers in the US are eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$100-\$500.

Application deadline: September 30, 2005. For more information, contact SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation, 3131 Elbee Road, Dayton, OH 45439 Tel: 800-854-7467 or 937-297-2250, [info@shopa.org](mailto:info@shopa.org) or visit the website at: [http://www.shopa.org/shopa\\_foundation/teacher\\_programs.php](http://www.shopa.org/shopa_foundation/teacher_programs.php).