
From: "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>
To: <CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 5:06 PM
Attach: Rebecca Sapora-Day.vcf
Subject: [Character_education_network] CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online-2006 Vol. #14

CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List November 2006 Vol. #14

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:

- New Jersey Schools Capture National Awards
- Last Minute Conference Opportunities
- Application Deadline Nears for 2007 NJ Schools of Character

FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

It was a proud group of New Jersey educators who assembled at the Character Education Partnership's 2006 National Forum last month (see Character Education News). As the awards recognizing high quality character education efforts were presented, public acknowledgment was given by CEP before the 700 educators in attendance that New Jersey schools have been the recipients of more awards than any other state for three years in a row. This is a testament to our sustained efforts and to the fact that many of you have enough confidence in the impact of the work you have been doing to want to seek the recognition that our national advocacy organization

provides. Recognition not only feels good and rewards us for our good work; it also reinforces our sense of professionalism and gives us a way to gain support from school district administrators, boards of education and community and civic organizations that can be vital to sustaining the growth and viability of our programs.

One of the topics of discussion at the CEP Forum among our New Jersey 'delegates' was the question of whether it is time to have a New Jersey Character Education Partnership membership organization, similar in structure to the New Jersey affiliate of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. NJCCE would be interested in hearing from you on this topic. Please feel free to email us or call.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.
Director

CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- New Jersey Schools Gather Top Honors at CEP**
New Jersey schools led the nation in Character Education at the Character Education Partnership's 2006 National Forum, *From Positive Character Development to Academic Achievement: Challenges & Successes*. Nineteen New Jersey schools/districts were cited for their comprehensive character education programs that have consistently yielded positive results in student behavior, citizenship, school climate, and academic performance. New Jersey received national recognition for 24 programs of excellence, 16% of all awards, more than any other state in the country. Having demonstrated the success of their initiatives through the rigorous NSOC application and screening process, the winners will go on to serve as national leaders and models for other schools and districts seeking to improve their character education efforts. [CEP's newly published 2006 National Schools of Character: Award-Winning Practices includes over 100 Promising Practices](#). Program descriptions can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Former Education Secretary Richard W. Riley presented the awards at a luncheon ceremony at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia on Friday, October 27.

2006 NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER – WINNER

Zane North Elementary School
Collingswood, NJ
The Kindest School in New Jersey

2006 NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER - FINALISTS

Memorial Middle School
Fair Lawn, NJ
A Magical World Where Character Counts!

Pequannock Valley School
Pompton Plains, NJ
Teenagers Who Make a Difference

Radix Elementary School
Williamstown, NJ
"We Are Family Here"

2006 PROMISING PRACTICES

Promising Practices Awards are given to schools and districts for implementing unique and specific strategies in character education that others may learn from and even replicate.

~ PROMISING PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE CORE VALUES ~

Newark Public Schools Office of Alternative Education-Twilight Programs
Newark, NJ
Character Education through Literacy Series

Ralph J. Steinhauer Elementary School
Maple Shade, NJ
Student Workshops

~ PROMISING PRACTICES THAT HELP CREATE A CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITY ~

Alexander D. Sullivan School, P.S. #30
Jersey City, NJ
Lunch Club

Liberty Corner School
Liberty Corner, NJ
Peace Patrol

Colonia High School (2)
Colonia, NJ
Social Issues Theater
Meet Your Mentor Night

Memorial Middle School
Fair Lawn, NJ
Walk in My Shoes

Robert R. Lazar Middle School
Montville, NJ
Tears Teaching Tolerance: Living Lessons

~ PROMISING PRACTICES THAT PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORAL ACTION ~

Cranford High School
Cranford, NJ
Holiday-Fest

Delsea Regional School District
Franklinville, NJ
Character Education through Service Learning

Fred W. Martin School, P.S. #41
Jersey City, NJ
Building Character while Developing Philanthropy

~ PROMISING PRACTICES THAT CHALLENGE AND RESPECT ALL LEARNERS ~

Gladys Cannon Nunery School, P.S. #29
Jersey City, NJ
Fourth-Grade Chess Club

Memorial Middle School
Fair Lawn, NJ
The Mirror Project

~ PROMISING PRACTICES THAT DEVELOP STUDENTS' SELF-MOTIVATION ~
Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission School at West Amwell

Lambertville, NJ
Karate Character Assessment Training

Lincoln High School
Jersey City, NJ
Young Gents Empowering Tomorrow's Men

~ PROMISING PRACTICES THAT ENGAGE THE STAFF
AS A LEARNING AND MORAL COMMUNITY ~

Hamilton Township Public Schools
Hamilton, NJ
Flourish with Fish!

Cranford High School
Cranford, NJ
Celebration of Learning

~ PROMISING PRACTICES THAT FOSTER SHARED MORAL LEADERSHIP ~

Harry S. Truman School
Parlin, NJ
School Theme and Countdown Café

~ PROMISING PRACTICES THAT ENGAGE FAMILIES
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS AS PARTNERS ~

Ollie E. Culbreth, Jr. School, P.S. #14 (2)
Jersey City, NJ
Hall of Fame - Achievers
Hall of Fame - Builders

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Building Better Communities through Service-Learning

Friday, December 1, 2006

8:00 am – 3:15 pm

Montclair State University

A conference for Administrators, Faculty (K-16), Students and Community Based Organizations

The conference is designed to help educators, community service agencies and students develop high-quality service-learning programs. Service-learning is meant to be an educational method that combines elements of experiential education with community service. Youth apply academic skills to solving real world problems. Participants will leave the conference armed with the tools necessary to support service-learning initiatives using new ideas, resources and shared best practices. (CEU's will be available.)

Conference Schedule

8:00—8:45 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00—9:45 a.m. Keynote Speaker

10:00—11:15 a.m. Workshop Session I

11:30 —12:45 p.m. Workshop Session II

1:00—1:45 p.m. Networking Lunch

2:00—3:15 p.m. Workshop Session III

To register and for complete session information please click [HERE](#).

Questions: call The Volunteer Network at 973-740-0588 or visit <http://www.volunteernj.org/>

- **New Jersey Conference on Civic Engagement**

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Busch Campus Center

Rutgers University

Piscataway, NJ

The New Jersey Coalition to Support the Civic Mission of Schools will sponsor a statewide conference which will include concurrent classroom demonstrations of promising civic education programs, as well as small group discussions about research, policy changes and community support. The goal of the conference is to help schools fulfill their civic mission—to ensure that young people have the knowledge, skills and interest to be informed, engaged citizens. Join or be part of a team from your district along with teachers, school administrators, superintendents, school board members, parents, high school students, mayors, members of town councils, members of civic organization, and local businesspersons or representatives of corporations. There is no cost to participate in this conference.

For registration information or questions about the conference, please call 732-445-3413.

NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **2007 New Jersey Schools of Character**

*Reminder: The application deadline is **December 18, 2006**.*

To learn more about application guidelines, please visit www.nj-character.net OR www.character.org/nsoc. The CEP informational Power Point Presentation, which includes

helpful resources to applicants, is available [HERE](#).

If additional assistance is needed, please contact the New Jersey Center for Character Education at (732) 445-7504.

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **e-School News Online article: How to vie for a share of billions in new funding from the Gates Foundation**
by Deborah Ward
Ms. Ward discusses the impact of investor Warren Buffett's donation on the grant-making potential of the Gates Foundation.
The full article is available at: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showfundStory.cfm?ArticleID=6647>

WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- **Citizenship & Character Resource**
Citizenship & Character: Understanding America's Civic Values, a resource made available by The Bill of Rights Institute, is tied to the latest national standards and provides interactive exercises in which students link civic values to their own lives. Each of the 10 lesson plans contained in the paperback book includes focus questions, primary sources, and historical narratives with discussion suggestions. The accompanying interactive CD-ROM presents students with a variety of scenarios and asks them to make choices based on the civic values studies. For more information, contact the Bill of Rights Institute at 800.838.7870 or visit their website at: www.billofrightsinstitute.org
- **New High School Curriculum Published**
School-Connect®: Optimizing the High School Experience is a 40-lesson curriculum (grades 9-12) designed to improve students' social and emotional skills, boost academic achievement, and facilitate supportive relationships among students and teachers. *School-Connect* can be implemented in freshman seminar, life skills, health, English, advisory, psychology, or leadership courses.

The curriculum consists of four modules:

- Creating a Supportive Learning Community
- Developing Self-Awareness and Self-Management
- Building Academic Strengths
- Resolving Conflicts and Making Decisions

School-Connect lesson plans apply the latest research in emotional intelligence, positive psychology, prevention, conflict resolution, and character education. The lessons are designed to create a positive school climate while giving students opportunities to explore, discuss, and practice skills crucial to success in school and the workplace. Particular attention is given to the needs of at-risk youth. As students' sense of competency grows, so does their self-esteem and attachment to school.

Lead author Kathy Beland, M.Ed., is the original author of the award-winning *Second Step, A Violence Prevention Curriculum*, which is implemented in over 20,000 classrooms in the U.S. and Canada and in 21 other countries. *School-Connect* builds upon the same skills introduced in *Second Step* with an added emphasis on academic readiness.

For more information, visit the School-Connect website at www.school-connect.net or call (800) 597.6209.

The New Jersey Center for Character Education operates in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education under a contract with Rutgers, The State University, Center for Applied Psychology.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the New Jersey Department of Education. No official endorsement by the New Jersey Department of Education of any product, commodity, service, or enterprise mentioned herein is intended or should be inferred.

Character_education_network mailing list
Character_education_network@email.rutgers.edu
https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/character_education_network