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**From:** "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>  
**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 20, 2006 7:29 PM  
**Attach:** Rebecca Sapora-Day.vcf  
**Subject:** [Character\_education\_network] CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online -2006 Vol. #13

## **CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List October 2006 – Vol. #13**

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:**

- New Jersey receives federal Partnership in Character Education grant
- State and National Schools of Character Awards Program Opportunities
- Technical assistance workshops focus on Sustainability
- Civic Engagement Conference scheduled for December
- Volunteer NJ! – November opportunities
- New series of Character Education intervention reports released
- CEP welcomes new Executive Director
- Fall grants and funding opportunities
- Virtual professional learning community extended to December

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### **FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR**

We at the NJ Center for Character Education are so excited to share with you the news that we

have been successful in assisting the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to win a new four-year award under the Partnerships in Character Education grant program. The grant will enable us to continue to provide technical assistance to schools, professional development opportunities to educators, and foster local leadership to advance the state of the character education field. The two main goals that the NJDOE will be funding the NJCCE to provide are:

**Goal 1: Increase the capacity of New Jersey school systems to implement and sustain character education and social-emotional learning programs in the context of current state reform efforts.** The NJDOE will create a sophisticated character education technical assistance system using the experience and expertise of identified high-performing schools and findings from the research literature to support professional growth, school culture change and involvement of diverse constituencies, including parents, community members and students, based on the state's recent regulatory reforms in its curriculum standards (N.J.A.C. 6A:8) and recently adopted statewide code of student conduct rules (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7).

**Goal 2: Evaluate the impact of character education on the social inclusion of students with disabilities.** The NJDOE will implement and rigorously evaluate a program that seeks to improve academic engagement, social participation and perceived sense of autonomy by children with disabilities by assisting a selected cohort of twelve middle schools in the development of a positive culture, facilitated by increased awareness, acceptance and perspective-taking by peers, teachers, and other school personnel.

More information on specific activities under the new grant will be forthcoming from both the NJDOE and the NJCCE. For starters, please see the announcement below on *Regional Technical Assistance Workshops on Character Education and Sustainability* under PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, and the announcement of our second *New Jersey School of Character Awards Program* under CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS.

We hope your school year has begun well and wish that the students you serve with so much professional energy will grow and flourish under your care.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.  
Director

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## CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- *2007 New Jersey Schools of Character Awards Program Application Deadline: December 18, 2006 (postmarked)*

The New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE) are pleased to announce the 2007 New Jersey State Schools of Character (SSOC) competition. This is the second year of the New Jersey SOC awards program, which also serves as a preliminary step to advancing to the Character Education Partnership's national awards program, the [National Schools of Character \(NSOC\) awards](#).

The SSOC and NSOC applications are the same. However, if your school or district is

located in New Jersey, you must apply directly to NJCCE, not to CEP. Thanks to a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation, 2007 winning National Schools and districts of Character will receive a [\\$20,000 award](#).

Click on the links below to access and download documents needed to apply, and to view helpful examples of applications, including sample narratives and portfolios.

#### Documents Needed to Apply

- ✓ [Application Cover Sheet](#)
- ✓ [Revised Character Education 2006 Quality Standards](#) (PDF)
- ✓ [Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education](#) (PDF)
- ✓ [Self-Assessment Score Sheet](#) to compute your scores in Excel
- ✓ [Guidelines for School Districts in Fostering Character Education](#) (PDF) for School Districts Only.

#### How to Complete the Application

[View an informational Power Point Presentation](#) that guides you through the application process.

#### Sample Applications

Click on these links to learn more about the [NSOC](#) and [Promising Practices](#) awards programs.

For more information about the New Jersey Schools of Character awards program, contact NJCCE at 732.445.7504.

- **Character Education Partnership (CEP) Announces Hiring of Joseph Mazzola as Executive Director**

The Character Education Partnership (CEP) has announced the hiring of Joseph Mazzola as executive director. Mazzola, formerly director of the Center for Character Development at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, began his duties on August 21.

Mazzola begins his work at CEP as a seasoned and accomplished leader with dual graduate degrees and over 25-years of extensive character development/education/training/management experience in the US, Pacific and Europe.

CEP is the national advocacy organization for character education in the U.S. It is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, nonpartisan organization based in Washington, D.C.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Sustaining Character Education Initiatives: Strategies and Resources to Meet the Challenges**  
**November 29, 30, and December 1, 2006**  
**Regional Technical Assistance Workshops**  
**Sponsored by NJ Department of Education and NJ Center for Character Education**

Have you ever asked yourself the question, "*How are we going to keep our character education efforts alive and thriving?*" If so, you'll want to mark your calendar for upcoming workshops designed with you in mind!

Three free ½ day technical assistance workshops are being offered regionally throughout NJ to provide educators with information, resources and strategies for sustaining character education initiatives, including opportunities to:

NETWORK with colleagues

SHARE successful strategies

EXPLORE factors that contribute to sustainability

LEARN how to leverage alternative resources

<b>Sustaining Character Education Initiatives: Strategies and Resources to Meet the Challenges</b>		
<b>NORTH</b>	<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
December 1, 2006 Check-In at 8:00a.m. Workshop: 8:30a.m. to 1:00p.m.	November 30, 2006 Check-In at 8:00a.m. Workshop: 8:30a.m. to 1:00p.m.	November 29, 2006 Check-In at 8:00a.m. Workshop: 8:30a.m. to 1:00p.m.
Passaic County Public Safety Academy 300 Oldham Rd. Wayne, NJ	Busch Campus Center Rutgers University Piscataway, NJ Room 116 ABC	Gloucester County Office of Education 1492 Tanyard Rd. Sewell, NJ

To register for a workshop near you, visit the New Jersey Department of Education's Professional Development and Technical Assistance website at:  
<http://education.state.nj.us/events/>.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Be sure to click on the links "Details" and "Directions"! Directions and exact workshop locations are provided there for you.

Sponsored by the NJ Department of Education and the New Jersey Center for Character Education.

- Fall 2006 NCCJ-NJ Educators' Institute**  
**Navigating Race in Schools**  
**October 30, 2006 and December 4, 2006**  
**8:30am – 3:00pm**  
**Brookdale Community College**  
**Lincroft, NJ**  
 NCCJ-NJ, in cooperation with the Peter Sammartino School of Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University and with funding from the Wachovia Foundation, presents the *Fall 2006 NCCJ-NJ Educators' Institute*. Open to teachers, administrators, counselors, and other individuals interested in building more inclusive and affirming classrooms, the *NCCJ-NJ Educators' Institute* will afford participants the opportunity to explore and develop strategies to effectively navigate diversity issues in schools. Educators receive 12 CEU hours for participation in each NCCJ-NJ Educators' Institutes series

For registration details and more information, contact NCCJ-NJ at 732.745.9330. The October 15 registration deadline has been extended, but space is limited. Call today!

NCCJ-NJ will also offer the following series in Spring 2007:

Series #2: “Navigating Sexual Orientation in Schools (TBD)

Series#3: “Navigating Immigration in Schools” (TBD)

- **Al’s Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices Training**  
**October 24-25, 2006**  
**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Maple Shade, NJ (near Cherry Hill)**  
*Al’s Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices* teaches children ages 3-8 years old to express feelings appropriately, care about others, use self-control, think independently, solve problems peacefully, and make safe and healthy choices. The lessons are delivered by the classroom teachers who reinforce the *Al’s Pals* concepts in daily interactions with the children. The 46-lesson *Al’s Pals* curriculum kit is available only with accompanying Wingspan training for preschool. For additional information, contact Wingspan at (804) 967-9002 or visit [www.wingspanworks.com](http://www.wingspanworks.com).
- **Volunteer NJ!**  
**Saturday, November 4, 2006**  
 Governor Corzine and Secretary Wells will team up with Boys and Girls Clubs in New Jersey to share the idea that “Every success story has a mentor”. This event begins an annual calendar of volunteer service in New Jersey. November will focus on mentoring youth and hunger awareness. Opportunities for volunteering include volunteering at your local food bank or becoming a mentor at a Boys & Girls Club. Contact the Food Bank to learn about Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> events at <http://www.njfoodbank.org>, or contact the Boys & Girls Club near you to learn about becoming a Mentor at <http://www.bgcnj.org>. For more information, contact: Governor’s Office of Volunteerism at 609.984.3470, [www.njvolunteerism.com](http://www.njvolunteerism.com).
- **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

- Character Education Partnership's 13<sup>th</sup> National Forum**  
**From Character Development to Academic Success**  
 October 26 – 28, 2006  
 Crystal Gateway Marriott  
 Arlington, Virginia  
 The 13th National CEP Forum will look at the practical experiences and research that connect the development of moral and performance character with academic success and other positive character traits. Implicit in this theme is the study of what moral character is, how performance character links to achievement, and what teachers, youth-serving professionals, schools and communities are doing every day to encourage positive youth development. Visit the CEP website at [www.character.org](http://www.character.org) for Forum details and to register online. If you do not register in advance, you will need to register on-site at the Registration Desk at the prevailing rates. See the conference agenda for registration hours.  
 Walk-ins will be welcome.
- Sustainable, Schoolwide Social and Emotional Learning Implementation***  
**Two-Day Intensive Workshop**  
 October 23-24, 2006  
 and  
**One-Day Advanced Follow-Up Workshop**  
 February 5, 2007  
 Chicago, Illinois  
 Featuring CASEL's New *Implementation Guide & Tool Kit*  
 (NOTE: Although these workshops will take place next week, we wanted to share these new resources and training opportunities from CASEL with the Character Education Network members. Visit CASEL's website at [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org), or contact Cynthia Coleman at [colemanc@uic.edu](mailto:colemanc@uic.edu) if you are interested in attending future workshops.)

These workshops have been developed to equip school administrators and their teams with the tools and skills to implement high quality, sustainable, evidence-based social and emotional learning programming that is integrated into all aspects of schooling. The Guide consists of 158 pages of SEL research and practice information and case studies, and the Toolkit has 272 pages of tools you can use and adapt to help your school create a planning team, develop a shared vision, conduct needs and resources assessments, assess impacts, communicate with families, develop funding, and much more.

Through participation in these workshops, school teams will:

- Understand the theory and rationale of SEL as a framework for school change and positive student development.
- Learn about the important role the school leader must play in high quality and sustainable SEL implementation.
- Explore the key steps of SEL implementation and strategies for sustaining programming.
- Create a plan of action to advance SEL programming at your school.

Throughout the two days, participants will use *Sustainable Schoolwide Social and Emotional Learning (SEL): Implementation Guide and Toolkit* to learn about the CASEL framework for implementing and sustaining SEL. In addition, school teams will learn about the newest research on SEL and the role of leadership, receive individual consultation from CASEL staff, interact with other schools

that are implementing SEL programming, and leave the training with a comprehensive plan of action.

For more information about these workshops or the Guide and Toolkit, please visit CASEL's website at [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org), or contact Cynthia Coleman (colemanc@uic.edu).

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## GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **State Farm Service-Learning Grants Available**  
 Grants for \$25,000-\$100,000 service-learning projects are being offered by the State Farm® Youth Advisory Board. The school-based projects must relate to disaster preparedness, driver safety financial education or access to higher education. **November 15 is the deadline for the completed Request for Proposals (RFP) to be submitted.** Go to Youth Advisory Board [www.statefarmyouthadvisorybaord.com](http://www.statefarmyouthadvisorybaord.com) website and click on “RFP INFO” to find the RFP. For additional information, contact Joel Rogers at (309) 766.7554.
- **Youth Service America Awards and Grants Information**  
 Youth Service America, with the generous support of their sponsors who underwrite many grants and awards, post a variety of opportunities to increase the quality and quantity of service and service-learning. Grants and awards support and motivate youth, teachers, service-learning coordinators, and youth-serving organizations to plan and implement projects for National Youth Service Day and on-going service throughout the year. Visit the YSA website at [http://www.ysa.org/awards/award\\_grant.cfm](http://www.ysa.org/awards/award_grant.cfm) for current application details and deadlines.
- **Grants for Teachers of Citizenship Education**  
 The VFW's National Citizenship Education Teachers' Award recognizes the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions. Maximum Award: \$2,000. Eligibility: teachers K-12. Deadline: November 1, 2006. For more details, visit: <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmt.y.level&did=1832>.
- **The NEA Foundation**  
 The NEA Foundation supports a variety of efforts by teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to improve student learning in the nation's public schools, colleges, and universities.  
**Learning & Leadership Grants** provide opportunities for teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to engage in high-quality professional development and lead their colleagues in professional growth. The grant amount is \$2,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for groups engaged in collegial study. The next application deadline is February 1, 2007. For information on all Foundation grants, visit the NEA Foundation website at <http://www.neafoundation.org/grants.htm>.
- **Edutopia, The George Lucas Educational Foundation**  
 The George Lucas Education Foundation is a nonprofit operating foundation, not a grant-making organization. However, a comprehensive list of Web sites with Grant Information,

Periodicals with Grant Information, Corporate and Foundation Grants, Government Grants, and Technology Donation Programs are listed on the Edutopia website at:  
<http://www.edutopia.org/foundation/grant.php>.

## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- **Two new Bill of Rights Institute Student-Centered Resources Available**  
 The Bill of Rights Institute launched two new websites in September:
    - *Student-centered website* – Online educational resource for students wishing to know more about the Bill of Rights, the Founders, and how current events relate to constitutional freedoms.  
 Visit: [www.doyouhavetheright.org](http://www.doyouhavetheright.org).
    - Included on the student website is a new *Constitution Study Guide* which contains over 300 entries about the Constitution, civic values, landmark Supreme Court cases, primary source documents and individuals – all hyperlinked to each other. Select “Study Help” when you visit [www.doyouhavetheright.org](http://www.doyouhavetheright.org).
  
  - **Ethics Newslines**  
 E-published by the Institute for Global Ethics, Ethics Newslines brings together news from around the globe, seen through the lens of ethics. A new issue is e-mailed every Monday afternoon. You can also read Ethics Newslines on the Web at:  
<http://www.globaethics.org/newslines/members/currentissue2.templ>.
  
  - **New Civic Education Measurement Tools**  
 Since 2001, CIRCLE (The Center for Information & Research On Civic Learning & Engagement), has conducted, collected, and funded research on the civic and political participation of young Americans.  
 In June 2006, CIRCLE released two new Working Papers containing assessment tools for measuring the effects of civic education programs. The first [Working Paper \(#47\), “Developing Indicators and Measures of Civic Outcomes for Elementary School Students,”](#) contains two sets of instruments designed to be used at the elementary school level. The measures include a [student survey of civic knowledge, skills and attitudes](#) and a [set of corresponding grade level observation checklists of student skills and behaviors](#). The tools were created by Bernadette Chi of the East Bay Conservation Corps, JoAnn Jastrzab of Abt Associates Inc., and Alan Melchoir of the Center for Youth and Communities at the Heller School, Brandeis University.
- The second [Working Paper \(#48\), entitled “Assessing School Citizenship Education Climate: Implications for the Social Studies,”](#) focuses on the middle- and upper-grade levels. It presents the *School Citizenship Education Climate Assessment* —a self-assessment tool developed to help schools evaluate their citizenship education strategies and policies—and examines its implications for social studies classes. The tool was created for the Education Commission of the States (ECS) by Gary Homana, Carolyn Barber and Judith Torney-Purta of the University of Maryland and is available from ECS. The ECS Web site ([http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=Qna/splash\\_new.asp](http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=Qna/splash_new.asp)) also contains a set of items for assessing outcomes of civic education in the areas of knowledge, skills, and dispositions across the elementary, middle, and high school grades.

CIRCLE is based in the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy and is funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and Carnegie Corporation of New York.

To sign up for the monthly CIRCLE e-updates, visit [www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org).

- **What Works Clearinghouse Releases New Character Education Reports**

The What Works Clearinghouse, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, has announced a new series of intervention reports highlighting available research in a number of areas including Character Education. Character education looks at how families, schools, and related social institutions support the positive character development of children and adults. This review focuses on programs designed for use in elementary, middle, or high schools with attention to student outcomes related to positive character development, prosocial behavior, and academic performance. Relevant programs reviewed include:

- Building Decision Skills
- Caring School Community™ (CSC)
- Connect with Kids
- Facing History and Ourselves (FHAO)
- Heartwood Ethics Curriculum
- Lessons in Character
- Lions Quest -- Skills for Action, Skills for Adolescence, Positive Action
- Too Good for Drugs and Violence (TGFD & V), Too Good for Drugs™ (TGFD),
- Too Good For Violence (TGFV)
- Voices Literature and Character Education (Voices LACE)

For more information and links to the reviewed Character Education studies, visit the What Works Clearinghouse website at: <http://www.whatworks.ed.gov/Topic.asp?tid=12&ReturnPage=default.asp>.

- **Watering Can Press Newest Title Now Available**

**The Healing Book: Facing the Death, and Celebrating the Life, of Someone You Love**

*The Healing Book* helps children and families express their feelings, ask questions, and explore their memories about a loved one who has passed away. Like other titles from Watering Can Press, it serves as an activity book, a journal, and a conversation-starter. It lets children make it their own and use in whatever way best meets their needs during the grieving and remembering process. To see sample pages, visit Watering Can Press at: [www.wateringcanpress.com](http://www.wateringcanpress.com), or for more information, call 1-800-345-6665.

- **Character Education 2006 Virtual Conference Site Remains Available**

“*Character Education in a World of Budget Cuts and Standardized Testing*” conducted between March 8 – 10, 2006 offered a unique opportunity for educators around the world to access presentations and interactive sessions with 20 of the nation’s most knowledgeable and influential educators, thought leaders and researchers in the field (Eric Schaps, Tom Lickona, and Marvin W. Berkowitz, to name just a few).

Once logged in, registered participants were able to view speaker presentations, post questions and comments, download white papers, explore linked web resources and network with other attendees. Originally, all conference presentations and materials were planned to be accessible for 60 days following the conference. Now, the site will remain open through December 2006 as a professional learning community devoted to character education.

At **no additional charge**, all previously registered participants may log-in and:

- Post questions or comments to the presenters – this is an opportunity to engage in on-going dialog with the most respected experts in the field of character education
- Create topics in the Collaboration Café and start to share presentations, experiences and expertise with fellow community members
- Use the Site Search feature to search for keywords anywhere in the site
- Network with colleagues from almost every state in the U.S. as well as from Canada, Egypt, Norway, Taiwan and Thailand by going into the Community Directory and searching through the member profiles
- Add resources to the Resource Library and Helpful Websites areas
- Suggest topics for the next teleconferences (see the new poll in the Announcements area)

If you missed the March Conference, but are interested in future virtual conferences, visit <http://www.icohere.com/ce2006> for more information.

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Character\_education\_network mailing list  
Character\_education\_network@email.rutgers.edu  
[https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/character\\_education\\_network](https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/character_education_network)