
From: "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>
To: <CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2007 12:40 PM
Subject: [Character_education_network] CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online -2007 Vol. #8

CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List December 2007 - Vol. #8

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 Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University (CSCD@RU), **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 CSCD website (www.rucharacter.org) 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.

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. This project is funded under Title V, Part D, Subpart 3, Sec. 5431 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. 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.

In this issue:

- **Time to apply for CEP's 2008 Promising Practices Award**
- **Make a Difference! Volunteer Opportunity at NJ Association of the Deaf-Blind**
- **The Ernest L. Boyer 2008 Best Practices Award for Character Education**
- **Free publication available: Mobilizing for Evidence-Based Character Education**

FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

Two recent articles in *Education Week* on character education (November 14, 2007, <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2007/11/14/index.html>) deserve your attention. In *Character Education on the Cheap*, Peter Greer, formerly headmaster of the Montclair-Kimberly Academy and New Jersey's first National School of Character, discusses some of the negative consequences of what is being done under the banner of character education. Some of the strategies he opines

against, such as having a virtue of the month, or values signage are very common in the field, and others, such as service activities that are not linked to instruction are nearly as ubiquitous. Greer's list of inadequate approaches is an opportunity for self-reflection and a call to think more deeply about the real impact of our efforts. I share his concerns, not because these strategies are necessarily bad ideas, but they are insufficient if not embedded in a planned process of change. Character and social development educators need to foster a deep understanding of the philosophical meaning and behavioral definition of the core ethical values that provide the basis for social norms that are taught and opportunities for moral action. We are proud to have Peter Greer serve as a member of our Blue-Ribbon panel that helps us select our New Jersey Schools of Character.

In the article *Smart and Good Schools*, Tom Lickona and Matt Davidson review their groundbreaking work which adds the virtues of performance character, such as persistence and diligence, to the moral virtues usually associated with character education, such as respect and responsibility. If you are not familiar with their approach, I highly recommend this article as a starting point. CSCD offered one of the first workshops in the country highlighting their research and conceptual reframing of the field two years ago, and one of the schools that followed-up on that initial exposure to *Smart and Good Schools*, the Passaic County Technical Institute, now serves as a lead school in our Promoting the Advancement of Service-Learning Through Character Education (PACES) project with the New Jersey Learn and Serve Program.

Philip Brown, Ph.D.
 Director
 Center for Social and Character Development
 at Rutgers University

CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- Name Change for the NJCCE**
 When first created in 2002 under a federal Partnership in Character Education grant at the Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers University, the *New Jersey Center for Character Education* (NJCCE) was the name used by the New Jersey Department of Education. As the Center matured, the work expanded to include grants from New Jersey's Learn and Serve program, and affiliations with the national Character Education Partnership, the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning and other agencies and organizations. "As the Center enters its sixth year of existence, the time seemed right to reexamine who we are and what we do," said its director, Dr. Philip M. Brown. "The new name better reflects our organizational home at Rutgers, and also explicitly refers to our primary mission of human moral and social development. The new name also better describes the way we work, which is not so much to do character education, but to assist educators (and also parents and others) in their work to help develop schools of character, where the institutional culture supports development of the whole child." And the new name is . . . *the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University (CSCD@RU)*.
- Audubon, NJ Celebrates Promising Practices Award**
 The town of Audubon, New Jersey celebrated Audubon Junior/Senior High School's 2007 Promising Practices Award at an "Evening of Patriotism" on Nov. 27. The school's winning

practice, Project Memorial, involves a memorial that students created and still maintain to honor local veterans. The celebration featured a presentation of the award to the students involved in the project. Audubon's award was one of 130 Promising Practices awards granted at the 14th National Forum on Character Education.

- **Poll finds that one-third of teens are being harassed online**
According to a poll conducted by Pew Internet and American Life Project, about one third (32%) of all teenagers who use the internet say they have been targets of a range of annoying and potentially menacing online activities – such as receiving threatening messages; having their private emails or text messages forwarded without consent; having an embarrassing picture posted without permission; or having rumors about them spread online. Cyber bullying is defined as publicly disclosing someone else's private e-mail/messages, sending threatening or aggressive messages, and spreading rumors online.

The poll was conducted via telephone survey, with approximately 900 teenagers participating. The survey found that girls between the ages of 15 and 17 are at the highest risk for experiencing cyber bullying (41% of those polled had experienced bullying). To download the full report, or for more information on the Pew Internet and American Life Project, visit their website at <http://www.pewinternet.org/>. This report was also published in the August 2007 issue of eSchool News (<http://www.eschoolnews.com>).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Responsive Classroom Workshop**
December 12, 2007
Bucks County, Pennsylvania.
Responsive Classroom will be holding a “one-day interactive overview for elementary school educators” on December 12, 2007 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The seminar offers the opportunity to participate in a morning meeting, explore foundational ideas, see practice in action, investigate discipline, and gather practical ideas. For more information, call 1.800.360.6332 or visit Responsive Classroom's website at www.responsiveclassroom.org.
- **The Rutgers Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project**
Upcoming Workshops:
Conducting Practical Needs Assessments
January 11, 2008 (South Region)
January 15, 2008 (North Region)
January 18, 2008 (Central Region)

Effective Collaborations with Parents and Community Members and Organizations
February 12, 2008 (Rutgers University)

Registration information will be provided on the [SDFSC website](#) as locations and times are set. Should you have any questions about these topics, please contact SDFSC at:

Tel: 732-445-6173

E-mail: sdfsc@rci.rutgers.edu

URL: <http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu>

NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Application Deadline March 15, 2008: CEP 2008 Promising Practices**
As part of the National Schools of Character® awards program, the Character Education Partnership (CEP) gives Promising Practices awards to schools and districts in the United States and elsewhere for implementing unique and specific strategies in character education. Currently, New Jersey schools have received more Promising Practice awards than any other state! This year, 23 NJ schools captured 30 of the 130 Promising Practice awards!

CEP showcases the selected practices in its annual National Schools of Character (NSOC) publication and on the CEP website and honors the schools and districts at the annual CEP National Forum on Character Education. Award recipients receive a certificate in recognition of their work and a copy of the NSOC publication.

If your school or district has developed and successfully implemented a unique practice, we encourage you to apply for a Promising Practices award. Visit the CEP website at <http://www.character.org/> to download and read the Promising Practice application guidelines. If you have questions regarding the Promising Practices program, please contact Lara Maupin at 202-296-7743, ext. 28 or lmaupin@character.org.

CHARACTER IN ACTION

- **Participate in new activities! Learn Sign Language! Meet new people! Make a Difference! Volunteer Opportunity at New Jersey Association of the Deaf-Blind (NJADB)**
Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer experience? NJADB is just the organization to share your time and talent while making a tremendous difference in a person's life. The mission of New Jersey Association of the Deaf-Blind, Inc. (NJADB) is to improve the quality of life of individuals who are deaf and/or blind. The Community Support Services (CSS) Department, which is currently seeking volunteers, provides and coordinates statewide services which enable individuals who are deaf-blind to maintain independent living in the community. The CSS department also maintains an extensive recreation calendar for clients who wish to participate in a variety of statewide events. Because NJADB provides support and recreational services to individuals throughout the state of New Jersey, volunteer opportunities can be based upon an individual's geographic preference. In addition, because NJADB provides a vast array of services to clients, the nature of the volunteer's work can be based upon individual skills/interests and the needs/interests of the clients. Here is a brief list of currently available volunteer activities:
 - Companionship
 - Household Maintenance
 - Communication Assistance
 - Mail Reading Assistance
 - Shopping Assistance
 - Recreation Transportation and Assistance

This list is always expanding to ensure that clients can maintain their independence in the community.

NJADB volunteers benefit from training opportunities to increase their understanding of deaf-blindness and sighted guide techniques; they also benefit from opportunities to participate in a variety of recreational activities with clients. For more information visit the NJADB's website at: www.njadb.org, or contact Jackie Arteglier, Director of Community Support Services at (732) 805-1912 ext. 235 or e-mail her at jarteglier@njadb.org.

- **Kick Off the New Year with Character**

Important Upcoming Dates

January – National Mentoring Month (www.mentoring.org/)

January 21-25, 2008– No Name Calling Week (www.nonamecallingweek.org)

Jan 28 – Feb. 3, 2008 – Souper Bowl of Caring (www.souperbowl.org)

February 11-17, 2008 – Random Acts of Kindness Week (www.actsofkindness.org/)

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Staples Foundation for Learning Grant opportunity**
Application Deadline: December 7, 2007
Maximum Award: \$5,000-\$25,000
 The mission of Staples Foundation for Learning is to provide funding to programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. For more information e-mail the Staples Foundation at foundationinfo@staples.com or visit the Staples Foundation website at <http://www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html>
- **Youth Service BR!CK Awards**
Application Deadline: December 31, 2007
Maximum Award: \$100,000 (in grants and scholarships)
 The BR!CK Award celebrates individuals age 25 and under who are leading significant and measurable social change to make the world better. Winners have a shot at \$100,000 in community grants and scholarships. One previous winner established a mobile clinic providing on-site physician care, free education, and heart disease and cancer screenings to underserved minorities and immigrants. Another past winner advocated for the rights of mentally ill incarcerated persons. For more information visit the BR!CK Award website at www.brickawards.com or e-mail questions to brick@dosomething.org.
- **The Ernest L. Boyer 2008 Best Practices Award for Character Education in the Elementary School**
Deadline: January 15, 2008
Maximum Award: \$10,000
 This awards program is inspired and informed by the work of Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. in *The Basic School: A Community for Learning*. It recognizes elementary schools for their accomplishments in character education; invites evaluation and development of character education programs; and encourages efforts to promote exemplary practices that will benefit other schools. Awards will be announced in March 2008. The meritorious programs will be featured in an Ernest L. Boyer Best Practices 2008 publication prepared for national dissemination. Representatives of the award-winning schools will be recognized and present their programs at the NAESP National Convention April 4-8, 2008 in Nashville, Tennessee. The exemplary programs will also be featured at the National Basic School Conference in March 2009 in San Antonio, Texas.

For more information, application procedures and guidelines, visit The Boyer Center website at www.boyercenter.org. Click on News Highlights. For inquiries and updates, contact Donald Murk at (717) 796-5077, The Ernest L. Boyer Center, Messiah College, One College Avenue, P.O. Box 3024, Grantham, PA 17027. E-mail: dmurk@messiah.edu.

- **Smaller Learning Communities Program**
Agency: U.S Dept. of Education
CFDA Number: 84.215L
Eligibility: Eligible Applicants: Local educational agencies (LEAs), including educational service agencies and BIE schools, applying on behalf of one or more large high schools.
Deadline: February 25, 2008 (Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: January 10, 2008)
Maximum Award: \$1,250,000-\$14,000,000
Number Of Awards: 40
Purpose: The Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) program awards discretionary grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to support the implementation of SLCs and activities to improve student academic achievement in large public high schools with enrollments of 1,000 or more students. SLCs include structures such as freshman academies, multi-grade academies organized around career interests or other themes, “houses” in which small groups of students remain together throughout high school, and autonomous schools-within-a-school, as well as personalization strategies, such as student advisories, family advocate systems, and mentoring programs.
Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: January 10, 2008. The USDOE will be able to develop a more efficient process for reviewing grant applications if they have a better understanding of the number of entities that intend to apply for funding. Therefore, they strongly encourage each potential applicant to send a notification of its intent to apply for funding to smallerlearningcommunities@ed.gov by January 10, 2008. The notification of intent to apply for funding is optional. Applicants that do not supply this e-mail notification may still apply for funding.
More Information: Contact Angela Hernandez-Marshall, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3W236, Washington, DC 20202-6200. Telephone: (202) 205-1909 or by e-mail: smallerlearningcommunities@ed.gov.
URL: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-22957.htm>
- **ThinkQuest International 2008**
Application Deadline: April 2, 2008
Maximum Award: \$750-\$1,500
ThinkQuest inspires students to think, connect, create, and share. Students work in teams to build innovative and educational websites to share with the world. Along the way, they learn research, writing, teamwork, and technology skills and compete for exciting prizes. Sponsored by the [Oracle Education Foundation](http://www.oracle.com/education), the competition offers a unique project-based learning experience to students and teachers across the globe. All participants have their completed websites published in the [ThinkQuest Library](http://www.thinkquest.org), a rich online resource visited by millions monthly. For more information visit ThinkQuest’s website at <http://www.thinkquest.org/> or e-mail questions to support@thinkquest.org.

WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- **CSCD@RU Launches *NEW* Website**

The Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University is proud to announce the launch of its new website: <http://www.RUCharacter.org>. CSCD@RU, (formerly known as the New Jersey Center for Character Education), has redesigned its website to better serve you! The user-friendly design, and an extensive new collection of best practices, lesson plans, and resources will be of help to any teacher or school leader involved in **Teaching for Character**, **Building School Culture**, and developing **Kids who Care**. Some of the new features worth checking out are:

- **Making Character Work:** A process framework that gives educators a new way to map out their journey toward comprehensive changes in school climate and culture. Easy-to-use tools and resources include: a Quick Assessment Quiz, Seven Guideposts for the journey, and Helpful Hints & Tips to keep you on track.
- **Lesson Plans and Best Practices:** Need some fresh, new ideas on how to incorporate character education into your curriculum? This section provides a large collection of classroom-based resources.
- **Funding and Grant Information:** A great place to find financial support for your character education initiatives.

Please share the website URL with all your colleagues, parents and friends. And send us your comments and suggestions so we can continue to improve the site for you. Send us an e-mail at cscd@rci.rutgers.edu, and include “Website Suggestions” in the subject heading.

- **Mobilizing For Evidence-Based Character Education**

U.S. Department of Education Publication #ED003813P

Program evaluations that are grounded in scientifically based research add to the field’s shared knowledge base, and assist in making major advances in improving the effectiveness in Character Education. Evaluations may help to:

- Provide data to determine whether an intervention is accomplishing its desired objectives
- Support decision-making, guide practice and improve programming
- Nurture staff, student, parent and community efforts
- Communicate to parents and the community the purpose of the program and the benefits for the participants during the various stages of its implementation
- Inform funders about the outcomes of their investments
- Influence program and policy decisions
- Build the knowledge base about what does and does not work in character education.

The US Department of Education publication, *Mobilizing for Evidence-Based Character Education* is presented as a resource primarily for project directors who are federal grantees embarking on an evaluation of a character education intervention, but it also contains useful information that can benefit other education administrators who also are providing these interventions. In particular, this publication offers strategies for working with external evaluators and key stakeholders in planning and implementing a scientifically sound evaluation.

For more information or to order this **free publication**, visit <http://edpubs.ed.gov> and search for Publication Number ED003813P, or e-mail edpubs@inet.ed.gov or call 1.877.433.7827 (1.877.4.ED.PUBS).

- **New Resources from Educators for Social Responsibility (ESR) Now Available**
For Elementary Educators: *Connected and Respected: Lessons »From The Resolving Conflict Creatively Program*

This elementary curriculum written by Ken Breeding and Jane Harrison is based on the nationally recognized Resolving Conflict Creatively Program on conflict resolution and social and emotional learning. The book contains 16 lessons per grade level focused on five themes: Making Connections, Emotional Literacy, Caring and Effective Communication, Cultural Competence and Social Responsibility, and Conflict Management and Responsible Decision-Making. Each lesson also includes connection to children's literature and a listing of major curriculum standards that are addressed in the lesson. The two volumes contain lessons specifically geared for students in K-2 or grades 3-5.

For Secondary School Educators: *The Advisory Guide: Designing and Implementing Effective Advisory Programs in Secondary Schools*

Rachel A. Poliner and Carol Miller Lieber, authors of this new guide, help educators think about what it takes to make an advisory program successful in secondary schools.

For more information visit: <http://www.esrnational.org> or call 1.800.370.2512.

Character_education_network mailing list

Character_education_network@email.rutgers.edu

https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/character_education_network

To unsubscribe, send mail to character_education_network-request@email.rutgers.edu with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject.