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**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2007 2:34 PM  
**Attach:** Rebecca Sapora-Day.vcf  
**Subject:** [Character\_education\_network] CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online -2007 Vol. #1

## CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List January 2007 - Vol. #1

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:

- *Caring Schools Inclusion Project* Application Deadline: Feb 9, 2007
- Take NJCCE Website Survey by Feb 2, 2007
- 2007 Promising Practices Awards Online Application Goes Live
- **The Network** Adds a New Section: Character In Action
- CEP's E-ssential Character e-newsletter highlights NJ Principal

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## FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

This first edition of **The Network** for the New Year contains a new section, **Character In Action**. The Character Education Partnership (CEP) defines service as the moral action component of character education. **Character In Action** will feature opportunities for educators, students and others to participate in or contribute to programs and activities that support worthy causes through service learning or community service. It will also include opportunities to recognize and celebrate the efforts of individuals and organizations that have provided leadership to all of us in how we can pull together to help those in need.

For three years in a row, more New Jersey schools have received national Promising Practices awards from CEP than any other state. For information about this recognition program, look under **National**

Character Education Opportunities.

I also want to bring your attention to the February 9, 2007 deadline for middle schools to apply to be part of our new four-year *Caring Schools Inclusion Project*, which will begin this spring (look under Character Education News).

Philip M. Brown, PhD  
Director

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## CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- ***Caring Schools Inclusion Project (CSIP)***

**Deadline: February 9, 2007**

Middle school principals have recently received an invitation from the New Jersey Department of Education and NJCCE to apply to participate in the *Caring Schools Inclusion Project (CSIP)*, a new initiative designed to increase the quality and success of middle schools' inclusion of students with disabilities in the general education program. The CSIP initiative will examine the effectiveness of implementing an evidence-based character education school-wide intervention, Community of Caring, to create a school culture that provides opportunities for growth and development for all children and to improve engagement, social participation, and a perceived sense of autonomy of children with disabilities. This new four-year project, which will be implemented in twelve selected middle schools, is a central part of NJCCE's work with the NJDOE on the Partnerships in Character Education grant that the state received in July.

The CSIP application is available on the NJCCE website at: <http://www.nj-charactered.net/>. Involvement in this project will provide professional development and technical support for participating schools, as well as opportunities to network with other schools adopting Community of Caring nationally, and the status of being involved with a national research project in character education. Please feel free to contact NJCCE (732.445.7504) if you have questions about the *Caring Schools Inclusion Project*.

- ***Help us redesign the NJCCE website***

**Deadline for completing the NJCCE website Survey Monkey: Friday, Feb. 2.**

The New Jersey Center for Character Education is in the process of redesigning its website ([www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net)) and we need your input. We hope you'll share your opinions and ideas about education-related and Character Education/Social-Emotional Learning (CE/SEL) websites, so that we can incorporate them into a newly designed website that will meet your educational and CE/SEL needs.

The online survey contains 20 questions and can be completed in about 10 minutes. Best of all, by completing the survey, you will become eligible to win an iPod Shuffle! Take the survey right now! It's easy:

1. Visit Survey Monkey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=499753149104>
2. Complete the survey
3. Provide your name, email address, phone number  
(Required if you want to be entered in the drawing for the iPod Shuffle.)

The drawing for the iPod Shuffle will be held in February and announced in the next Network listserv. Feel free to share this message with your colleagues!

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Managing School-Based Crises*  
 February 2, 2007  
 Mill River Manor at Best Western  
 Rockville Centre, New York  
 8:30 am - 12:30 pm  
 and  
 February 9, 2007  
 Hilton Garden Inn  
 Staten Island, New York  
 8:30 am - 12:30 pm  
 Presented by The National Center for Crisis Management in collaboration with the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, the program will offer all educators a structure and process for managing school-based crises. Beyond "who calls who" and "who does what," attendees will develop practical skills to address the emotional needs of people during and in the aftermath of a crisis. All attendees will receive a copy of *A Practical Guide for Crisis Response in Our Schools*.

For more information, call The National Center for Crisis Management at 1-800—810-7550. To register online, visit [www.CRISISINFO.org](http://www.CRISISINFO.org).
- *Crossing Thresholds: Contemplative Practice and Creative Process*  
 February 22 – 25, 2007  
 Garrison Institute  
 Garrison, New York  
 An intensive four-day retreat exploring contemplative practice and communal arts-making. Participants will engage with like-minded, compassionate individuals deeply concerned with a vision for a better future for themselves and the greater global community. A creative and evolving experience in mindfulness awareness practice, and communal arts-making in the visual arts, music and sound, creative movement, storytelling and poetry.

For more information and online registration, visit <http://www.crossingthresholds.org> or [registrar@crossingthresholds.org](mailto:registrar@crossingthresholds.org).
- *CAEC Spring Institute: The Ethic of Caring*  
 April 12 – 13, 2007  
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Offered by The Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character (CAEC)  
 at Boston University's School of Management  
 595 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA  
 The CAEC's Spring Institute is a stimulating retreat that cultivates the intellectual lives of

educators, inspires them to embrace a renewed sense of responsibility and dedication to the art of teaching, and instills in them a deeper understanding of how to educate for character.

Plenary presentations by Boston University scholars explain relevant philosophical principles and demonstrate how sources of wisdom can be mined for enduring lessons. Plenary sessions include: Caring: A Complex Virtue; Plagiarism: A Matter of Ethics and Caring; Ethical Decision-Making: The Difficulty of Balancing Theory and Practice.

To download the Institute brochure, visit the CAEC website at: <http://www.bu.edu/sed/caec/>. For more information, contact CAEC at 617.353.3262 or [caec@bu.edu](mailto:caec@bu.edu) Registration deadline: April 6, 2007.

- *7th Annual "From My Classroom to Yours" Conference*

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Sponsored by The Southern Regional Institutes (SRI) and ETTC

This year's conference will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the New Jersey Network of ETTCs and will honor the program's designer – Julia Stapleton, former Director of the NJDOE's Office of Educational Technology.

"From My Classroom to Yours" features a collegial environment where teachers, technology coordinators and curriculum supervisors can share ideas on technology integration and best practices for the classroom. This year's tracks are **character education**, distance learning, language arts and literacy, math and science education, and technology integration. Several computer labs will be available for hands-on sessions in addition to traditional "show-and-tell" demonstrations. Visit the SRI/ETTC website <http://www.ettc.net/conference/index.htm> for registration information and conference details.

Educators who are interested in presenting classroom strategies, projects, and innovative uses of educational technology to teach core subjects at this year's conference should also visit the website and "Register to Present". Presentations will last 60 minutes and presenters can indicate if they prefer using a computer lab for a hands-on session or would prefer an electronic classroom to provide a more traditional "show-and-tell" demonstration.

#### Previously listed professional development opportunities

- *It's All About Character®*

*Instilling Character In Young People*

Dr. Mike Thomson, Presenter

Thursday, February 8, 2007

8:00am – 3:00pm

Crystal Point Yacht Club

Point Pleasant, NJ

Hosted by Prevention First and the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Ocean, Inc.

(ADACO), this workshop will give participants opportunities to look at how the skills of good character can be instilled into the classroom, locker room and throughout multiple environments. For more information, contact Donna Greene (732) 367-5515 x15 or e-mail her at [donnag@adaco.org](mailto:donnag@adaco.org).

- *Responsive Classroom® One-Day Workshops*

Northeast Foundation for Children, Inc.

March 14, 2007- Embassy Suites Hotel - Piscataway, NJ

March 30, 2007 – Sheraton Crossroads - Mahwah, NJ

Workshops will provide an overview of the *Responsive Classroom* approach; how *Responsive Classroom* practices can help to foster trust and respect in the classroom; integrate the teaching of academic and social skills; and set clear, meaningful boundaries for student behavior. Tuition is \$179. Workshop participants will gain General principles of the *Responsive Classroom* approach and an awareness of two components:

Morning Meeting – This daily whole-class gathering is a powerful way to build trust and respect among students, increase their investment in learning, improve social and academic skills, and give them daily practice in effective communication.

You will be introduced to:

- The goals and purposes of Morning Meeting
- The four components of Morning Meeting
- Leading Morning Meeting in the classroom

Rules and Logical Consequences – This positive approach to discipline respects children and helps them take responsibility for their actions, recognize and learn from their mistakes, and develop self-control.

You will be introduced to:

- The goals and purposes of rules and logical consequences
- Generating and supporting rules with children
- The power of teacher language

To register, or for more information about Responsive Classroom, visit

<http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/> or call their registration hotline at 800-360-6332 x130.

## NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- *Promising Practices Online Application Now Active*  
*Applications due March 15, 2007*

Schools and districts implementing unique and specific strategies in character education are encouraged to apply for the Character Education Partnership (CEP) 2007 Promising Practices Awards. All applications **must be submitted online by March 15, 2007** at CEP's website:

[www.character.org/nsoc](http://www.character.org/nsoc) The link to the online application is now active. If you have a problem applying online, please call 202-296-7743, ext. 13 for assistance.

When applying online, you will first be asked to enter the following:

- basic information about your school or district
- the name of your practice and the date it began
- information about how you learned about this award

Next, you will be asked to attach your response to three Narrative Questions:

Narrative question #1: *What is the practice and how have you implemented it in your school or district?* Provide a detailed description of a unique and specific practice already taking place in your school or district.

Narrative Question #2: *How does the specific practice contribute to character*

*development?* How does the practice help students develop good character? Are there activities for reflection and feedback from students and staff?

Narrative question #3: *What impact is the practice having on students in your school or district?* What evidence do you have that students have acquired positive skills, attitudes, or behaviors as a result of this practice? How have you measured success?

If you wish to submit more than one practice for consideration, complete a separate online application for each. Note that CEP does not award more than two Promising Practices to any one school or district in one year. Notifications about the awards are made in May.

If you have questions regarding the Promising Practices program, please contact Lara Maupin at (202) 296-7743, ext. 28 or [lmaupin@character.org](mailto:lmaupin@character.org).

## CHARACTER IN ACTION

- ***Serve Up a “Souper” Bowl of Caring***  
The Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-led, grassroots movement of caring, the result of thousands of young people joining together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities by collecting donations in soup pots. Since 1990, \$33 million has been raised for charities across the country. On or during the weeks leading up to Sun, Feb 4, join young people from 15,000 churches, schools and other organizations to participate in the 2007 Souper Bowl of Caring. In addition to collecting donations, youth are encouraged to serve at the charity of their choice Saturday before the big game. In January 2005, over 13,000 young people joined the Service Blitz and over 11,000 organizations generated \$4 million for charities across the country and world. To learn more, visit <http://www.souperbowl.org/>
- ***Nominate an Outstanding Nonprofit for the Leadership “IS” Award***  
Independent Sector seeks your help in identifying a nonprofit organization that exemplifies a culture of investing in the people of the nonprofit community to be considered for the 2007 Leadership IS Award. The award recognizes organizations that emphasize the development of staff, board, and volunteer leadership. Nominations are due by February 15, 2007. Anyone may nominate an organization for the Leadership IS Award. The award will be presented at the 2007 Independent Sector Annual Conference, which will be held in Los Angeles, October 21-23. For more information about the award, including an online nomination form, visit the IS website at <http://www.independentsector.org/programs/leadership/organizationalaward.htm> or contact Jennifer Edwards at [leadershipis@independentsector.org](mailto:leadershipis@independentsector.org)

## GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- ***MTV Tr3s and Youth Venture Present the Tu Voz My Venture Contest***  
Youth Venture, in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and MTV Tr3s Voces, will select teams of two or more youth, ages 13 – 20, every week through June 29th, who submit

great ideas for encouraging their peers to graduate from high school and college. Tu Voz My Venture winners will receive grants of up to \$1,000 to create their ventures - an organization, business or club to help young Latinos stay in school and prepare for college and careers.

For more information, contact: National Office, 1700 North Moore Avenue, Suite 2000, Arlington, Virginia 22209. Phone: 703-527-4126 Fax: 703-527-8383 or visit: <http://www.youthventure.org/index.php?>

- ***Young People (ages 12-20) Invited to Apply for \$1,000 YSA Youth Venture Grants***  
YSA Youth Venture helps make every day National & Global Youth Service Day (April 20-22, 2007) by providing funding and support to who want to create new, sustainable, civic-minded organizations, clubs or businesses called Ventures. The Youth Service America/Youth Venture Program is a unique partnership between Youth Service America and Youth Venture that helps youth engage in community service and develop as young social entrepreneurs. **Application Submission Deadline is February 26th, 2007 by 5:00pm EST.** Examples include:
  - A youth center designed to keep youth out of trouble with music and art programs
  - An anti-peer pressure education campaign
  - A bike repair shop with a vocational training program
  - An assembly program touring inner city schools combining music with an anti-drug/violence performances

Ventures must be youth-led and designed to be a lasting asset to the community. YSA Youth Venture teams are required to plan a N&GYSD project every year that their Venture is operational. The YSA Youth Venture Program provides a variety of resources including: a national network of like-minded young people, media opportunities, technical support, helpful toolkits and workshops as well as seed money funding of up to \$1,000 for start-up expenses.

For an application and more information about the YSA Youth Venture Partnership Program, please visit [www.youthventure.org/ysa](http://www.youthventure.org/ysa).

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## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- **NJ Principal, Thomas Santo featured in CEP's e-newsletter**  
Thomas Santo, Principal, Zane North Elementary School, is the featured author of *Before the Bell* - How warm greetings prepare students for learning each morning at one New Jersey school, in the January issue of E-ssential Character. Zane North Elementary School is a 2006 National School of Character winner. To read the complete article, [click here](#).

E-ssential Character is CEP's monthly up-to-date online news information source with useful links, leads on public and private funding sources, opportunities for professional development and networking. E-ssential Character is a benefit of CEP membership. For more information about how to join CEP, visit their website at <http://www.character.org/>.

- ***"Much Done, More To Do," A 24-Month Update On Tsunami Relief Efforts***  
A new report by UNICEF, "Much Done, More to Do," provides a two-year update on work done

in tsunami-affected communities. The report covers progress in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. To learn more, visit <http://www.unicef.org/tsunami/2year/overview/overview.html>

- *DanielGoleman.info*  
<http://www.danielgoleman.info/blog/>  
Psychologist Daniel Goleman, Ph.D., author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Emotional Intelligence* and *Social Intelligence: The New Science of Human Relationships* has a new website and blog. The site features a Topics section (articles, links and resources on topics such as emotional intelligence, social intelligence, social & emotional learning, leadership and workplace), Short Takes (original, exclusive essays available only at his website), and a Question of the Week (a weekly opportunity for readers to connect and engage around selected questions submitted to his site.)
- **New Jersey School Security Website**  
New Jersey Department of Education  
<http://www.state.nj.us/njded/schools/security/>  
Includes information, news and resources on school safety issues, as well as sections on regulations, training and funding opportunities. Visit the website for more information on these current news items: New Jersey School Safety Initiative Strategic Actions for Violence Elimination (S.A.V.E.), Internet Safety Tips; and Keeping Our Kids Safe – policies, guidelines, and resources for districts that are supported by the department’s Safe and Drug Free Schools Unit.

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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.

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