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To: <CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>
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CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List June/July 2007 - Vol. #5

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.

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 of The Network:

- NJCCE Director's Message
- Celebrating New Jersey Schools of Character
- Summer Professional Development Opportunities

FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

In addition to the recognition your peers have received for participation in the New Jersey Schools of Character program highlighted below, we are particularly proud to announce that two of our state winners have gone on to be named as National Schools of Character. **Memorial Middle School** and **Radix Elementary School** are two of only ten schools in the country to be so honored (click [here](#) to read the press release). They will serve as mentors in our new Fostering Change in School Culture through Character Education project beginning this year, as will winners of State School of Character awards from the past two years. So we leave this school year looking forward to our plans for next year that have us expecting great things of ourselves and from you, our partners.

Wishing you a refreshing and fulfilling summer break,

--Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.

CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- *New Jersey Celebrates Its Schools of Character*

Seventeen New Jersey schools were recognized on June 5 by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Center for Character Education for their participation in the 2007 New Jersey Schools of Character award program.

Modeled after the National Schools of Character (NSOC) awards program sponsored by the Character Education Partnership in Washington DC, the NJSOC program recognizes schools or districts that excel in exemplifying CEP's *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education* and demonstrate an outstanding character education initiative that yields positive results in student behavior, school climate, and academic performance.

Named as CEP's first affiliate site in July 2005, NJCCE in association with the New Jersey Department of Education piloted the first State Schools of Character award program in 2006.

This years NJSOC process involved a two tiered evaluation process before applications could advance to the national level. All applications were first reviewed by an initial panel of individuals knowledgeable in the field of character education. The second evaluation was conducted by Blue-Ribbon Panel of experts to determine the winners of the NJSOC and those who would proceed to the 2007 National Schools of Character competition.

As of 2006, New Jersey leads the nation with over 70 awards from CEP for National Schools of Character, Finalists and Promising Practices Award Recipients.

Congratulations to the 2007 New Jersey Schools of Character Award Recipients

WINNERS

Carl W. Goetz Middle School
Hamilton Public School District
Liberty Corner School
Memorial Middle School
Radix Elementary School
Robert R. Lazar Middle School
Rosa International Middle School

Jackson, NJ
Hamilton, NJ
Liberty Corner, NJ
Fair Lawn, NJ
Williamstown, NJ
Montville, NJ
Cherry Hill, NJ

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Brigantine Elementary School
 Holly Glen Elementary School
 Woodcrest Elementary School

Brigantine, NJ
 Williamstown, NJ
 Cherry Hill, NJ

EMERGING SCHOOLS

Delsea Regional School District
 Emerson High School
 Franklin Township School
 Greenwich Elementary School
 Howell Township Board of Education
 Marlboro Memorial Middle School
 Monongahela Middle School

Franklinville, NJ
 Union City, NJ
 Washington, NJ
 Stewartsville, NJ
 Howell, NJ
 Morganville, NJ
 Sewell, NJ

Joining the celebration were the following distinguished guests:

Joseph Mazzola, Executive Director, Character Education Partnership (CEP)
 Janice Stoodley, Director, National Schools of Character Program, CEP
 Dr. Arnold Hyndman, President, NJ State Board of Education
 Susan Martz, Director, Office of Educational Support Services, NJ Dept. of Education
 Kaneisha Robinson, Office of Educational Support Services, NJ Dept. of Education
 Eileen Dachnowicz, Blue Ribbon Panelist, NJCCE/CEP consultant
 Dr. Jacqueline Norris, CEP Educational Advisory Board, The College of New Jersey

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Summer 2007 The Learning Institute*
Teaching Best Practices to Promote Students' Social/Emotional Development & Academic Success
 Various dates throughout August 2007
 Center for Healthy Schools, Families and Communities
 UMDNJ-UBHC
 151 Centennial Ave.
 Piscataway, NJ 08854
 Several intensive courses designed for administrators, teachers, special service workers (e.g. guidance counselors, crisis management workers, clinicians, student assistance personnel) and auxiliary staff (e.g. security personnel) will address the following topics:

 - Academic Support
 - Conflict Resolution and Mediation
 - Positive Discipline

Embracing Diversity
 Healing & Recovery after Trauma
 Violence Prevention

Courses will provide information on intervening with parents, students, and larger systems; recognizing signs and symptoms of barriers to learning and well-being; designing and implementing proactive interventions; and employing effective instructional practices.

Co-Sponsored by: University Behavioral Healthcare, NJEA, and Johnson & Johnson. For more information call 888-UMDNJ-CHSFC (863-6524), or visit the CHSFC website at www.center4healthyschools.org or the NJEA website www.njea.org for potential additions/changes to the course/offerings and/or schedule.

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- *Smaller Learning Communities Program*

Grant Title: *Smaller Learning Communities Program*

Organization: U.S. Department of Education

Eligibility: Local educational agencies

Value: 45 awards; amount varies

Deadline: July 17, 2007

The Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs) program awards discretionary grants to local educational agencies 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.

Contact: smallerlearningcommunities@ed.gov

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/...>

- *Staples Foundation for Learning Grants*

Grant Title: Staples Foundation for Learning Grants

Organization: Staples Foundation for Learning

Eligibility: Nonprofits

Value: Awards of \$5,000-\$25,000 for job skills and education programs

Deadline: August 3, 2007

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.

Contact: <http://www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html>

Character_education_network mailing list

Character_education_network@email.rutgers.edu

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

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