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CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List May/June 2007 - Vol. #4

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

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FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

As we see the end of the school year moving towards us with lightening speed and try to keep kids engaged in learning despite the pull of spring fever and the lure of summer fun to come, it is natural to reflect together on the course of the year. Educators who are involved in service-learning know that reflection is one of the critical process stages of turning service projects into significant learning activities for all those involved. Often reflection is not taken seriously enough or allowed sufficient time to become as meaningful as it can be. The *National Service-Learning Clearing House* has a document on reflection that is useful not only for service-learning projects, but also as a source for ideas regarding how to make reflection a part of everyday classroom activity. The document, [Connecting Thinking and](#)

Action: Ideas for Service-Learning Reflection (1190K pdf) can be found at: http://servicelearning.org/resources/online_documents/reflection/ This useful resource contains reflection guides and activities for grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. In addition to offering an opportunity to reflect on the core ethical values embedded in well-planned service projects, reflection activities stimulate the use of higher order thinking skills such as analysis comprehension, problem solving and inference.

Good luck in making these final weeks a time to reflect on your accomplishments throughout the year in fostering learning and building caring, supportive relationships with your students and colleagues.

--Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.--

CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- *Fostering Change in School Culture through Character Education Project DEADLINE REMINDER: June 1, 2007*

New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in collaboration with the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCCE), is seeking to identify five schools that are aspiring to effectuate change in school culture through the implementation of an effective character education initiative. The project, Fostering Change in School Culture through Character Education (FCSCCE), will provide an opportunity for aspiring school teams to improve the quality of their programs by pairing them with a selected NJ mentor school team recognized for its best practices in the Social and Character Education Development Process model.

Reminder: All applications must be postmarked by June 1, 2007. FCSCCE guidelines and application can be downloaded from the NJCCCE website at www.nj-charactered.net.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Ethics Symposium for Educators: Bringing the World into the Classroom June 26, 2007 8am-4pm and June 27, 2007 8:30am-4pm Mountain Lakes High School Mountain Lakes, NJ*

The Ethics Symposium, hosted by the Mountain Lakes School District, is open to educators and all members of the public. The two-day event will include four general sessions and over 20 breakout sessions. The first day of the event will include speakers in the field of law, public health, mass media, technology, foreign policy, and education. The second day of the event will include breakout sessions with leading educational professionals in the areas of academic integrity, environmental stewardship, holocaust studies, character education, technology and standardized testing.

Special event features include free character education curriculum support materials, opportunities for up to 12 professional development/continuing education credits, and reduced registration rates for groups of 8 or more.

Visit the Mountain Lakes School District Ethics Symposium website at <http://www.mtlakes.org/ethics/registration.htm> for more information and to obtain a registration form.

- *The Institute for Global Ethics: The Ethical Literacy® Conference*

June 20-21, 2007

Camden Opera House, Camden, ME

The first annual *Ethical Literacy*® Conference is an opportunity for participating *Ethical Literacy*® Team members and others to develop skills for building cultures of integrity. Educators may register for the whole conference or one day. Presenters will explore the world landscape of ethics in 2007 and related research. Participants will take away tools for engaging school leadership in the *Ethical Literacy* message.

Visit the IGE website at http://www.gloablethics.org/services/edu/el_conf.htm for more information and register for the event.

Previously listed professional development opportunities:

- *Parental Breakthrough Conference*

June 27 – 29, 2007

Caesars Atlantic City Hotel

Atlantic City, NJ

“I Care”, a research-based curriculum approach to character education and parental involvement provides educators with tools that eliminate barriers to parental involvement, and measure and assess parental involvement by class, school, and district. Visit www.icarenow.com for more information on the conference, or contact Annette Bettis at (800)797-5818.

- *Responsive Classroom Summer Institute in New Jersey*

July 9 – 13, 2007

Ewing, NJ

Registration is now open for the week-long Responsive Classroom summer institute to be held in Ewing, NJ. Developed for K-6 educators, the trainings will be offered on three different levels. This helps educators find the right level for their professional development – RCI is for those new to Responsive Classroom, RCII for those who've already attended RCI, and RCIII for in depth exploration of Responsive Classroom practices (RCI and RCII are pre-requisites for RCIII).

Key Topics: Morning Meeting; Rules and Logical Consequences; First Six Weeks of School; Guided Discovery; Academic Choice; and Teacher Language. For more information and to register, visit www.responsiveclassroom.org, or call 800.360.6332 ext. 130, or e-mail: registration@responsiveclassroom.org.

- *Center for Social and Emotional Education (CSEE)*

Tenth Annual Summer Institute

“Educating Hearts and Minds: Creating the Foundation for Learning and Positive Youth Development:

July 10-12, 2007

New York Society for Ethical Culture

New York, NY

Presented in partnership with the City University of New York, the Institute will focus on providing support for individuals and school teams developing instructional and systemic plans that will promote K-12 student social, emotional, ethical and academic learning. The primary

purpose of the Institute is to practically support schools' evidence-based school climate improvement efforts.

Visit CSEE's website at www.csee.net/sc/si for detailed Summer Institute 2007 information, including a downloadable brochure (PDF file) and registration materials.

- *New Jersey State Bar Foundation Offers Free Summer Training Sessions Summer 2007 Trainings in Conflict Resolution, Peer Mediation and Character Education 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. New Jersey Law Center New Brunswick, NJ*
Registration is now being accepted for the Foundation's one-day conflict resolution and peer mediation training sessions for the summer.

At the Elementary level:

Tuesday, July 10 and Tuesday, July 17: *One-Day Conflict Resolution*

Wednesday, July 18: *Elementary peer mediation training*

Thursday, July 12: *Character Education trainings*

At the Middle/High School level:

Wednesday, July 11 and Thursday, July 26: *Middle/high school peer mediation trainings*

Tuesday, July 24: *Character Education trainings*

Conflict resolution and peer mediation programs in New Jersey schools attract increased attention everyday, as concerns about violence escalate. Committed to the promotion of violence prevention, the New Jersey State Bar Foundation offers FREE one-day training sessions for teachers, administrators and para-professionals on the topics of conflict resolution and peer mediation.

Both trainings are focused at the elementary and middle/high school levels. The intense one-day conflict resolution training sessions focus exclusively on conflict resolution techniques and how to utilize the curriculum guides provided by the Bar Foundation. The peer mediation trainings discuss, among other things, how to implement and sustain a program in your school and how mediation has been proven to reduce incidents of school violence. Teachers that attend the entire training will receive professional development hours (Provider Number 1418).

Character Education Training

The Bar Foundation's Character Education Training (formerly called advanced training in conflict resolution), debuted in 2004 and is also being offered in the summer on both the elementary and middle/high school levels. The character education training sessions will build on the principles learned in the NJSBF's original conflict resolution training sessions and will allow participants to become familiar with the advanced, Volume II edition of the Bar Foundation's conflict resolution guides, which focus on character education. These guides feature lessons on, among other things, self-esteem, stereotypes, gender equality and honoring each other. Attendees of these training sessions should have a basic understanding of conflict resolution. Trainings will be held on the elementary level on Thursday, July 12 and on the middle/high school level on Tuesday, July 24.

All training sessions are held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. Space is limited. To register for any of the training sessions, call 1-800 FREE LAW to request a registration form.

- *Summer Education Law & Policy Institute*

July 15th – 17th, 2007

Sunday: 11:00AM to 4:30PM

Monday & Tuesday: 8:30AM to 1:00PM

Wildwood Convention Center

Wildwood, NJ

The Foundation for Educational Administration (FEA) and the Institute on Education Law & Policy at Rutgers School of Law-Newark are offering a comprehensive program that addresses one of the most difficult concerns facing all school leaders – how to correctly apply complex legal principles to the myriad of decisions school leaders must make each and every day. The Summer Law and Policy Summer Institute sessions are interactive and embrace various aspects of education law and policy. Participants apply education law in “real life” school situations and engage in in-depth analysis of underlying policy choices. Upon completion, participants have an increased knowledge of education law, a solid framework for decision-making and the ability to engage in informed analysis of policy choices.

The Summer Institute is designed for school administrators, NJ EXCEL participants and graduates, NJ Principals and Supervisors Association aspiring school leaders and school counselors. Visit www.njpsa.org and click on Education Law Institute for more information and registration details.

- *School-Connect: Optimizing the High School Experience*

Summer Training Institutes

Los Angeles, CA – June 27 & 28, 2007

Bethesda, MD – July 16 & 17, 2007

Chicago, IL – August 8 & 9, 2007

School-Connect® is a 40-lesson curriculum designed to improve high school students’ social, emotional, and academic skills and strengthen relationships among students and teachers. It is designed to foster academic engagement, enhance social and emotional competencies, reduce risk behaviors, and facilitate supportive relationships within high school communities.

This summer, School-Connect® is offering three training institutes across the U.S. These Summer Institutes include a **Staff Training** (1.5 days) and a **Trainer Training** (2 days). The Staff Training prepares participants to present School-Connect lessons and strategies. The training provides an overview of curriculum concepts, practice in facilitating student-driven discussions and activities, and links to academic integration. The Trainer Training provides instruction in how to provide a Staff Training in your school or district and includes a CD-R of handouts and two Power Point presentations. For more information about School-Connect® or to obtain registration forms, visit the School-Connect® website at: www.school-connect.net/.

- *Sustainable, Schoolwide Social and Emotional Learning Implementation Workshops*

Featuring CASEL's Implementation Guide & Tool Kit

August 6-7, 2007: Two-Day Intensive Workshop

February 18, 2008: One-Day Advanced Follow-Up Workshop

Chicago, Illinois

CASEL is pleased to announce these workshops designed to equip school administrators and their teams with the tools and skills needed 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.

CASEL strongly recommends also attending an optional follow-up one-day workshop on February 18, 2008. This workshop will be open solely to participants who have previously attended CASEL's two-day workshop and will provide advanced "booster" instruction and tailored consultation to schools on such topics as evaluation, program selection, and leading for change.

Through their participation in these workshops, school teams will:

- Understand the theory and rationale of SEL as a framework for school change, positive student development, and student academic success.
- Learn about the important role the school leader must play in high quality and sustainable SEL implementation and strategies that help leaders fulfill this role.
- 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. Participants will also receive CASEL's Safe and Sound: An Educational Leader's Guide to Evidence-Based Social and Emotional Learning Programs. 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.

If you are interested in attending these workshops, please visit CASEL's newly-redesigned website at www.casel.org to download the registration form, or contact Cynthia Coleman (colemanc@uic.edu) today.

NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Previously listed opportunities:

- *Investing in America's Future*
Character Education Partnership's 14th National Forum on Character Education
November 1-3, 2007
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Arlington, Virginia
CEP's 2007 National Forum theme, "Investing in America's Future," looks toward the positive effects of quality character education. In an ever-changing world, democracy demands citizens who are prepared academically, ethically, socially and civically. Education that shortchanges any of these elements is incomplete and will leave our children ill-prepared for the world. For

this reason CEP has decided to focus on how effective character education fosters the development of responsible and caring citizens. Implicit in this theme will be the study of how character links to achievement, to problem-solving skills and social skills, and to a skilled and ethical work force.

The lessons of this theme obviously extend to the world beyond the classroom. Character education initiatives are most successful when integrated into and supported by the community. How can research and real world experience enhance our understanding of ways to develop young people of good character who become engaged citizens of the world? CEP invites educators to join in this national discussion and share insights, research and best practices. As in previous years, CEP will celebrate the award-winning National Schools of Character and winners of the Promising Practices awards. For more information, visit the CEP website at: www.character.org.

CHARACTER IN ACTION

- *NJCCE Seeks VISTA Volunteers*

Two positions are available immediately with the office of the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE) at Rutgers University that may be of particular interest to people committed to children, education and service. Retired teachers, newly graduated education majors, or 'empty-nesters' may be the perfect candidates for this rewarding opportunity.

The VISTA volunteers will work with the staff of NJCCE to develop and implement the PACES project. PACES (A Partnership for Advancing Character Education through Service-Learning) was formed to significantly expand and strengthen the infrastructure of service-learning in New Jersey. The VISTA volunteers will play an exciting role in this mission. The position involves hands-on fieldwork in the schools, as well as research and evaluation work in the office. The VISTA volunteers will have the unique opportunity to learn how a community project like PACES is developed, and how its efficacy is measured and discussed within an academic environment. The VISTAs will spend the fall and spring of their 13-month term of service working directly with teachers, administrators, community members and students, traveling to a subset of our 18 participating middle and high schools. (This will involve considerable travel among schools throughout NJ.) The VISTAs will help teachers and students coordinate the planning and execution of service-learning projects at the schools, will facilitate communications among aspiring and mentor schools, and will help the schools to document their progress. During the summer, the VISTAs will work in the NJCCE office at Rutgers to assist in the research and evaluation of the PACES project, prepare for PACES 2007-08, as well as other character education projects. The Vistas will be highly involved in program improvement and revision to the PACES program and preparation for the following school year.

Program benefits include health coverage, stipend, training, childcare assistance if eligible, choice of education award or end of service stipend.

If interested, contact NJCCE at 732.445.7504, or visit the *AmeriCorps* website at: <http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp> and click on [Find Out How to Get Involved](#). **Keywords** - Service Learning, Education, Children, Program Development, Youth.

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Pay It Forward Foundation

Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects

Deadlines: October 15, January 15, and April 15 of Every Year

Pay It Forward Mini-Grants are designed to fund one-time-only, service-oriented projects identified by youth as activities they would like to perform to benefit their school, neighborhood, or greater community. Projects must focus on the “pay it forward” concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others, with the results growing exponentially.

Mini-grants of up to \$500 are available for projects on a one-time-only basis. Schools, churches, and community youth groups (with an adult sponsor) may apply for funding. Youths or adults may complete the application. Groups whose members are all over the age of 18 must include work with youth under the age of 18 as part of their projects.

For more information or to download a grant application, visit:

<http://payitforwardfoundation.org/educators/grant.html>

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