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**From:** "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>  
**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 02, 2008 5:59 PM  
**Subject:** CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online - 2008 Vol. #11

## CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List Vol. #11 April 2008

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 Center for Social and Character Development website ([www.rucharacter.org](http://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.

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The Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University 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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### In this issue:

- **ASCD Honors NJ Educator**
- **Register Online for Regional SECD Conferences**
- **New Feature Added to Listserv: Job Opportunities**
- **Opportunities for Student Involvement**

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### FROM THE CSCD DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

CSCD@RU was pleased to have been invited to present a poster session at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual conference in New York City last week. The session focused on student outcome results in the Jersey City and Westwood School Districts from our last NCLB grant project on the implementation of evidence-based social-emotional and character development programs. I was accompanied by

Linda Bruene-Butler, the Director of the Social Decision-Making and Problem Solving Program at UMDNJ's University Behavioral HealthCare, and Dr. Rachelle Parker, a principal from the Westwood School District who was instrumental in coordinating our program efforts in Westwood. To view a copy of the summary results go to our website and look under News at [www.rucharakter.org/](http://www.rucharakter.org/). Dr. Virginia Stillson, CSCD's Project Manager for Program Evaluation, was the key person responsible for completing the original program evaluation work and preparing the poster presentation.

This presentation was part of the launch of a new Special Interest Group on Social and Emotional Learning at AERA. This new SEL/SIG is actively looking for new members, both researchers and practitioners devoted to helping our field mature into a substantial player in efforts to improve the quality of student development and educational outcomes. If you are interested and want more information, go to AERA's website at: [http://www.aera.net/SIGs/SigDirectory.aspx?menu\\_id=26&id=4714](http://www.aera.net/SIGs/SigDirectory.aspx?menu_id=26&id=4714), and search under Social and Emotional Learning.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you next month at the two statewide / regional conferences launching our new professional association. See below and register now!

Philip Brown, Ph.D.  
Director

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## CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- *ASCD Selects Hoboken Charter School Teacher as 2008 Outstanding Young Educator*  
*Character Education and Service Learning Prepare Students to be Leaders*  
Deirdra Grode, a 7th and 8th grade social studies and language arts teacher at Hoboken Charter School in Hoboken, N.J., is the winner of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development's 2008 Outstanding Young Educator Award (OYEA). ASCD honored Grode on March 15, 2008, at its Annual Conference and Exhibit Show in New Orleans, La.

ASCD Executive Director Gene Carter recognized Grode for promoting tolerance, raising her students' awareness of social justice issues, and teaching them to be leaders of change in their communities. In doing so, "she exemplifies what it means to teach the whole child," said Carter. To learn more about Deirdra's innovative approaches, [click here](#).

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Leading for the Future: Best Practices in Character Education*

### Register Online Today!

Sponsored by the emerging New Jersey Alliance for Social-Emotional and Character Development, this conference hopes to bring together the community of stakeholders who believe that improved student achievement thrives within a culture of CHARACTER.

### Southern Regional Conference

DATE: May 16, 2008

LOCATION: Educational Information and Resource Center,  
Sewell, NJ

### Northern/Central Regional Conference

DATE: May 27, 2008

LOCATION: Rutgers University, Busch Student Center,  
Piscataway, NJ

### Workshop Tracks:

- Improving School Climate
- Best Classroom Practices
- Making School/Community Connections
- Providing Leadership for Systemic Change
- Character Education and Service-Learning (North/Central ONLY)

### Registration

To register, visit the EIRC website at: <http://www.eirc.org/>

Credit Cards Accepted

Purchase Order # Accepted

\$35 - Registration with Box Lunch

\$50 - Registration, Box Lunch and Membership

\$25 - Membership Only

\$115 - Team of 3 (including Administrator), Box Lunch  
and 3 individual memberships

### Membership Includes:

- Discounts for the 2009 Conference
- Website resources, research and practical links
- Receive semi-annual Ideas Publication
- Act on Your Belief in Character Education

- An opportunity to get in on the ground floor of the first State membership organization in the country devoted to SECD.

This conference is sponsored by NJASECD in partnership with the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers, and EIRC with special funding from the Character Education Partnership courtesy of Radix Elementary School, Monroe Township Public School District.

- ***Planning and Implementing a Comprehensive Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Abuse Prevention Program***  
Rutgers University Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project

Registration for each session begins at 8:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn, Cherry Hill, NJ

**Wednesday, May 28, 2008**

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Livingston Public Library, Livingston, NJ

**Friday, May 30, 2008**

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Rutgers, Cook Campus Center, New Brunswick, NJ

District staff and community members will learn effective strategies for planning and implementing ATOD prevention efforts. Topics Include:

- Key elements of a pre-implementation assessment
- Approaches for assessing and implementing programs based on a logic model for program planning
- Strategies for implementing an evidence-based prevention program
- Strategies for addressing common challenges to effective prevention program implementation

Please register online at <http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu>

- ***Developing Safe and Civil Schools (DSACS) Spring Trainings***  
**April 9 in Pine Hill**  
Integration of SECD into Academic Content Areas: A focus on middle school and high school in-classroom strategies.

**May 7 at Rutgers**

Putting Children First: Creating emotionally intelligent Classrooms to Close the

Gaps to Success in School and Life: A focus on SECD implementation in the morning and then afternoon break-out sessions: Elementary, Middle and High School

**June 24, in Clayton**

Integration of SECD into Academic Content Areas: A focus on elementary in-classroom strategies.

To register, visit the DSACS web site at [www.teachSECD.com](http://www.teachSECD.com) and click on events. For more information, contact Donna Snyder, DSACS project program manager at 215.284.7566.

- *Online Training In-Service Seminars (OTIS) in Child Abuse/Child Neglect, Illegal Bullying & Harassment, and Suicide Prevention*  
The Southern Regional Institute & Educational Technical Training Center at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey  
The Southern Regional Institute & ETTC has teamed up with Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission to provide educators with a solution to completing the Statewide Mandatory In-Services.

Online Training In-Service Seminars (OTIS) are offered in Child Abuse/Child Neglect, Illegal Bullying & Harassment, and Suicide Prevention. The OTIS process is simple. Staff members register through the SRI/ETTC website, [www.ettc.net/cal](http://www.ettc.net/cal). Registrants are emailed an individual username, password, and link to access the online course. Once they have accessed the online course each member has 30 days to complete the one hour presentation. A professional development certificate will be issued from the SRI/ETTC office once the participant has completed the course.

The cost of all online courses is 1 ETTC Hour per person. Consortium members will be given a credit of 1 ETTC Hour for every 4 staff members who register. This discount is only applicable to Child Abuse/Child Neglect and Illegal Bullying & Harassment.

For more information visit: [www.ettc.net/cal/otis](http://www.ettc.net/cal/otis).

- *Educators for Social Responsibility (ESR) Hosts One-Day Institute "Connected and Respected"*  
Thursday, May 22, 2008  
8:00 am - 3:30 pm  
Frank Pombo's Bethwood  
38 Lackawanna Avenue  
Totowa, NJ

Educators for Social Responsibility invites elementary educators to explore *Connected and Respected: Lessons from the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program*, a new elementary classroom curriculum, presented by its authors, Jane Harrison and Ken Breeding. The purpose of the one-day institute is to introduce participants to the new curriculum and RCCP classroom strategies.

*Connected and Respected* helps students develop the qualities of character, and social and emotional competencies that are vital to succeeding in school, building and maintaining healthy relationships, and making positive contributions to their communities and the world.

Registration Information:

*Online:* @ [www.esrnational.org](http://www.esrnational.org) and click on Special Projects

*Mail:* Download our registration form and send to 23 Garden St, Cambridge, MA 02138

*Fax:* Download our registration form and fax it to 617.864.5164

For more information on ESR's Connected and Respected in the Elementary Classroom institutes, please contact Nicole Day at 617.492.1764 ext. 30 or [nday@esrnational.org](mailto:nday@esrnational.org). Visit their website at [www.esrnational.org](http://www.esrnational.org) for updated information.

- *Responsive Classroom Week-Long Summer Institutes in NJ*  
Responsive Classroom will be offering its summer institutes in four locations in the NY/NJ/PA area starting in mid-July.

July 14-18, 2008

PS 142 - Amalia Castro School  
100 Attorney St  
New York, NY 10002

and

Lore Elementary School  
13 Westwood Dr  
Ewing, NJ 08628

July 21-25, 2008

Conover Road Elementary School  
56 Conover Rd  
Colts Neck, NJ 07722

July 28-August 1, 2008

Chestnutwold Elementary School

630 Loraine St  
Ardmore, PA 19003

All week-long institutes focus on helping elementary educators learn how to use the [classroom practices](#) at the heart of the *Responsive Classroom* approach. The week-long institutes are divided into 5 different types: [Responsive Classroom I](#), [Responsive Classroom II](#), [Responsive Classroom III](#), [Literacy in a Responsive Classroom](#), and the [Physical Education Institute](#). The courses build on each other, so K-6 educators who are new to the *Responsive Classroom* approach, or who are using some of the practices but have not taken RCI yet, should begin with Responsive Classroom I.

For more information about other levels and how to register, visit the Responsive Classroom website at: <http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/>.

## NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- *The Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character Spring Institute*  
*“Educating for Justice”*  
April 28-29, 2008  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

The CAEC's Spring Institute is a stimulating retreat that cultivates the intellectual lives of educators. Boston University scholars and community leaders will present a range of philosophical and practical principles and ideas, shedding light on the virtue of justice. Educators will come away with strategies for helping students of every age to pursue justice, and a deeper understanding of what it means to strive for right action in their own lives.

**Registration:** Download the registration form from the CAEC website above and mail it in by **April 18**. For more information, including a full list of presenters and topics, visit the CAEC website at <http://www.bu.edu/sed/caec/files/springinstitute08.htm>, or call Eileen at 617-353-3262, or email [caec@bu.edu](mailto:caec@bu.edu).

- *Educating Minds and Hearts: Promoting Safe and Civil Schools*  
*Measuring and Improving School Climate*  
July 8th - 10th, 2008  
The New York Society for Ethical Culture  
New York City, NY

This three-day institute is designed to support school teams and individuals developing school climate improvement plans to promote safe and civil schools that support positive youth development, democratic school communities, student learning and achievement. The institute is organized around a process model of school climate improvement based on measurement and focused change and the use of evidence-based practices. Sessions will cover both the process model and the kinds of practices that have been found to effectively promote safe and civil schools.

The Institute will provide important research-based guidelines and resources for school teams and individuals to reflect on current practice and develop new plans to promote safe and civil schools, and to measure and improve school climate. Research shows that when schools engage in these processes over time, student achievement, civic engagement and positive youth development significantly increases and school violence decreases.

For more information and online registration, visit [http://www.csee.net/climate/programsservices/si2008/summer\\_institute.aspx#](http://www.csee.net/climate/programsservices/si2008/summer_institute.aspx#), or contact The Center for Social and Emotional Education at 212.707.8799 or 800.998.4701, or email them at [info@csee.net](mailto:info@csee.net).

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- *CASEL Executive Director Job Opening*  
Submit Applications by May 15, 2008

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) is now accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. Information about this position and the application process can be found on the CASEL web site at <http://casel.org/about/jobs.php>, or you can view and print a pdf about the position at <http://casel.org/downloads/ExecutiveDirectorCASEL3.14.08.pdf>.

For fullest consideration, applications should be submitted by May 15th. Please share information about this opportunity with interested colleagues.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning  
Phone: 312-413-1008  
Fax: 312-355-4480  
<http://www.casel.org/>

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## CHARACTER IN ACTION

- *1st Annual 4-H Teen Conference for North Jersey*  
*“SET Yourself for the Future”*  
 April 11-13, 2008  
 Days Inn  
 Bridgewater, NJ

Students in Grades 8-13 can enjoy a fun-filled weekend conference where teens in 4-H can meet people from other counties, learn new skills, learn about their personality type through True Colors, go on a field trip to Bridgewater Sports Arena, attend a dance, and participate in hands-on workshops, including:

- Save the Planet
- Grow Your Own Pizza
- Service Learning
- Get Moving—Get Healthy

Contact Jennae DuBois at the 4-H Office for registration information.  
 (973.684.4786 or jdubois@njaes.rutgers.edu)

- *NJ 4-H Middle School Conference*  
*“From Today to Tomorrow: Creating Great Leaders”*  
 Saturday, May 10, 2008  
 9:30am to 4:30pm  
 Burlington County 4-H Office  
 Westhampton, NJ

This one day leadership conference is open to any NJ middle school youth in 6 – 8th grade. Participants will build leadership, goal setting, communication and public speaking skills. Students will learn about community service, science and other State and National opportunities.

If you have questions, please contact Macy Compton, State 4-H Program Coordinator, 732-932-5000 x598 or mcompton@njaes.rutgers.edu or Laura Bovitz, Middlesex County 4-H Agent, 732-398-5261 or boviz@njaes.rutgers.edu.

- *Caring Institute Accepting Nominations for the Caring Award*  
 Deadline: September 28, 2008

The [Caring Institute](#) is now accepting nominations of individuals of all ages for the Caring Award. Nominations should describe, in at least 500 words, individuals who personify caring, and would be a worthy role model to be

emulated by others. Letters of recommendation should be included to give testimony to a long-standing commitment to public service.

Nominations should give consideration to: length of service; scope and impact of work; degree of difficulty and obstacles encountered; and imagination and innovation. Award recipients are flown to Washington, D.C., and honored at a special ceremony. Young adult recipients receive educational monies for college tuition.

Complete award program information and nomination form are available at the Caring Institute Web site: <http://www.caringinstitute.org/caringawards.html>

## GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### *Previously listed:*

- *HEADS UP Sprint Ahead for Education  
Character Education Grant Program*

**Deadline:** April 15, 2008

The Sprint Ahead for Education grant program will accept applications for Character Education programs that promote youth leadership, youth volunteerism, school pride and a positive school culture. The purpose of these grants is to fund the purchase of resource materials, supplies, equipment and software that facilitates and encourages character education among K-12 students.

**District level grants** are available for programs ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

**School level grants** are available for programs ranging from \$500-\$5,000.

**Eligibility:** Open to all U.S. public schools (K-12) and U.S. public school districts.

Applications will be accepted electronically only from March 3 to midnight, April 15, 2008. For more information, visit the Sprint website at:

<http://www.sprint.com/citizenship/education/sprintahead/> or contact [education@sprint.com](mailto:education@sprint.com) with your questions.

### *New listings:*

- *2009 MetLife Foundation-NASSP Breakthrough Schools*

**Deadline:** May 15, 2008

**Maximum award:** \$5,000

The project will identify, showcase and recognize middle level and high schools that are high achieving or are dramatically improving student achievement AND

that serve large numbers of students living in poverty.

For more information, contact:

Josephine Franklin

Associate Director for Research and Information Resources

NASSP

1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191

[franklinj@principals.org](mailto:franklinj@principals.org)

Phone: 703-860-7281

Fax: 703-476-5432

URL: [http://www.principals.org/s\\_nassp/sec\\_inside.asp?CID=66&DID=66](http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec_inside.asp?CID=66&DID=66)

- ***Staples Foundation for Learning®***

***Deadline: June 16, 2008***

***Maximum award: \$500 - \$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. Staples Foundation for Learning does not make contributions to support public schools without 501(c)(3) status.

Questions regarding the foundation or the application process can be emailed to: [foundationinfo@staples.com](mailto:foundationinfo@staples.com)

For more information visit:

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

- ***Being an American essay contest expands to all 50 states in September***

For the first time since its inception, students and teachers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia will have an opportunity to enter the contest in September 2008.

The “Being an American” Essay Contest challenges high school students to reflect on the civic values important to good citizenship. In essays up to 500 words, students describe what civic value(s) they find most important, and how they can live out that civic value(s) in their own life. Participants can win up to \$5000 for sharing their thoughts on what it means to be an American. This contest is for 9-12th graders.

Although 2009 application materials and guidelines are not yet available, you can learn more about the contest and read previous winning essays at:

[www.beinganamerican.org](http://www.beinganamerican.org).

- **New Publication from Responsive Classroom:**  
*The Power of Our Words, Teacher Language That Helps Children Learn*, by Paula Denton, EdD

Language may be a teacher's most powerful tool. Every day the words, phrases, tone, and pace you use have the power to help students develop self-control, build their sense of belonging, and gain skills and knowledge. The book helps educators recognize the influence their words have on children, and shows how to use language more skillfully, building a classroom where students feel safe, respected, appreciate, and excited about learning.

For more information, visit the Responsive Classroom website at:

<http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/bookstore/index.html>.

- *Learning Good Words for a Bad Mood*

Grades Kindergarten - 2

Human Relations Media

This program gently encourages children to realize that words are potent, and have the power to make others feel happy or hurt. Viewers will relish the singing and dancing antics of the Good Word Fairy—the hippest helper on the playground—and her magical Book of Good Words as they pop into several live-action vignettes to teach young children positive ways to express themselves instead of exploding into tears or hurtful words.

Each story revolves around a different emotion: anger, sadness, frustration, jealousy and more. The Good Word Fairy reminds children to take a deep breath and think about what they are feeling before they react. The program models valuable communication skills such as using “I” statements and learning to be an active listener. Simple follow-up activities in the Teacher's Resource Book reinforce the video's upbeat message. Includes Pre- and Post-Tests.

For more information, contact Human Relations Media at 1-800431-2050, or visit their website at: <http://www.hrmvideo.com/>.

- *Developing Safe and Civil Schools (DSACS) launches web site*

The DSACS website is up and running at: [www.teachSECD.com](http://www.teachSECD.com).

Download DSACS overview and PowerPoint, get info on program events, and register for upcoming DSACS spring trainings.