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**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2008 7:12 PM  
**Subject:** CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online - 2008 Vol. #12

## CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List Vol. #12 June 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.rucharakter.org](http://www.rucharakter.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:

- **State and National Schools of Character Awards Announced**
- **New Professional Alliance Emerges**
- **Summer Professional Development Opportunities**
- **Performance Values: Why They Matter and What Schools Can Do to Foster Their Development**

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## FROM THE CSCD DIRECTOR

Spring time is a season of culminating activities for us at CSCD, as we celebrate the accomplishments of the year with educators with whom we have learned and grown together in both small and important ways. As we take stock of the school year that is ending, like you, we are already planning for next year and look forward to working with the growing community of professionals who

value the work we do as fundamentally supportive of positive school cultures and healthy child development.

In this edition of the Network, we celebrate our State Schools of Character program participants who have found their participation in this recognition process a source of critical reflection and program improvement. We also highlight the coming out ceremony for the New Jersey Alliance for Social-Emotional and Character Development, the membership organization that we believe promises to provide a rich source of networking and leadership for the field. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first such state association in the country, and so others will be watching its evolution with real interest.

Wishing you a great summer, filled with opportunities for rest, reflection and fun.

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

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## CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- *Rosa International Middle School Named National School of Character*

Once again, a New Jersey school has been selected to receive the Character Education Partnership's top award for its outstanding commitment to positive youth development.

This year was a record-setting year for the National Schools of Character program. "We received the highest number of applications in history, and the strength of the applications surpassed that of any other year," said CEP Executive Director, Joe Mazzola. "Therefore, the selection of winners was the toughest yet."

As one of the 10 schools and one district selected this year, Rosa International MS will receive \$20,000 at CEP's 15<sup>th</sup> National Forum on Character Education held October 17-19, 2008, in Arlington, Virginia. Winners use \$10,000 of their awards to support continued development of their own programs, and must use the other \$10,000 of their grants to train and mentor other schools and districts seeking to improve their character education efforts.

Located in Cherry Hill, NJ, Rosa International Middle School is home to 778 students, in grades 6-8. At this public magnet school offering the International Baccalaureate curriculum, two staff in-service days per year allow focused concentration on character education planning. The daily Advisory program is a cornerstone of the character education initiative, providing time for students to conduct service activities, engage in buddy programs, or get extra academic help. Nine learning communities create a sense of a small family. A Character Education Committee, consisting of 20 teachers, staff, and parents, meets monthly. Rosa is also one of twelve New Jersey middle schools participating in the Caring Schools Inclusion Project, a NCLB funded research project of CSCD@RU and the NJ Department of Education measuring the impact of the Community of Caring evidence based program on the school climate and inclusion of special needs children in the life of the school. For more information about Rosa's character education initiative, contact: Ms. Jennifer L. Parks, Character Education Chair, [jparks@chclc.org](mailto:jparks@chclc.org), (856) 616-8787

To learn more about CEP and the National Schools of Character, visit [www.character.org](http://www.character.org).

- *New Jersey Schools of Character Celebrate at Rutgers University*

On June 4, twenty-four schools were recognized for their participation in the 2008 NJ Schools of Character award program. Joe Mazzola, Executive Director of the Character Education Partnership joined the Center for Social and Character Development and the NJ Department of Education in recognizing the efforts of educators who have succeeded in developing young people of good character.

Awards were given to schools in the following categories:

**New Jersey Schools of Character:**

- \*Brigantine Elementary School, Brigantine, NJ
- Colonia High School, Woodbridge Township, Colonia, NJ
- \*Hamilton Township School District, Hamilton, NJ
- Lawrenceville Elementary School, Lawrenceville, NJ
- \*Rosa International Middle School, Cherry Hill, NJ
- Livingston Park Elementary School, North Brunswick, NJ
- Horace Mann Elementary School, Cherry Hill, NJ
- \*Lore Elementary School, Ewing, NJ
- Veterans Memorial Elementary School, Brick, NJ
- Woodcrest Elementary School, Cherry Hill, NJ

\*Indicates Finalist status in the 2008 National Schools of Character program.

**Honorable Mentions:**

- Avenel Street School, Woodbridge Township, Avenel, NJ
- Franklin Avenue Middle School, Franklin Lakes, NJ
- Ho-Ho-Kus Public School, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ
- Holly Glen Elementary School, Williamstown, NJ
- Lake Riviera Middle School, Brick, NJ
- Lawrence Intermediate School, Lawrenceville, NJ
- Liberty Corner School, Liberty Corner, NJ
- Robert R. Lazar Middle School, Montville, NJ
- Sayreville Middle School, Parlin, NJ
- St. Philip's Academy, Newark, NJ
- TEAM Academy Charter School, Newark, NJ

**Emerging Schools:**

- Bartle Elementary School, Highland Park, NJ
- Pennsauken Campus of Camden County Technical Schools, Pennsauken, NJ
- Upper Freehold Regional School District, Allentown, NJ

- ***PACES Project culminates***

The third and final year of the *Promoting the Advancement of Character Education through Service-Learning* (PACES), a CSCD@RU project funded by the Department of State's (NJDOS) Learn and Serve program, culminated with workshops showcasing the accomplishments of 18 schools working in three-school clusters of professional learning and program development. In its final year the project involved more than 6,900 students and 106 staff members in a variety of school and community service projects linked to 12 different academic disciplines. According to Project Coordinator, Eileen Dachnowicz, one of the greatest sources of growth in the project this year was the noticeable improvement in the quality of student reflection, a key element in quality service-learning. As a student from Abraham Clark High School in Roselle Park put it, "I learned to have an open mind and a helping hand. The thing that I see as crucial to make a service project

successful is teamwork.” Many of the PACES schools will continue their work together next year under Learn and Serve grants from the NJDOS.

- *New Jersey Alliance for Social-Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD) Is Born*  
On May 16 and 27 educators from throughout New Jersey attended two conferences marking the beginning of a new statewide association of professionals devoted to supporting the development of character education, social-emotional learning, service-learning and citizenship. More than 240 participants attended 31 workshops by award winning practitioners. Both conferences were very positively evaluated by participants. The conferences were supported by grants from Radix Elementary School through its National School of Character professional development award, and cosponsored by CSCD@RU with assistance from the NJ Department of Education. To learn more about the new Alliance and become a member, visit their new website: [www.NJASECD.org](http://www.NJASECD.org). Future issues of the Network will provide information on professional development events sponsored by the Alliance.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *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  
Co-sponsored by the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers

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).

- *Summer Institute: Creating Multicultural Learning Environments*  
July 14-17, 2008  
9:00am – 5:00pm  
Fairleigh Dickinson University

## Teaneck Campus

Presented by The *American Conference on Diversity*, in cooperation with the *Peter Sammartino School of Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University* and with funding from the *New Hampshire Charitable Trust Foundation*.

Open to teachers, administrators, counselors, and other individuals interested in building more inclusive and affirming classrooms, the intensive four-day *Summer Educators' Institute* will afford participants the opportunity to explore and develop strategies to effectively navigate diversity issues in schools. Educators receive CEU hours for participation in the *Summer Educators' Institute* series. Each day of the institute will focus on a different area of diversity, providing interested educators with a variety of theoretical and practical applications for learning. Participants must attend each day of the Institute in order to receive the CEU hours.

The cost to attend the *Summer Educators' Institute* is \$125. Fees cover all training materials and handouts, as well as breakfast and lunch. In addition, each participant will receive a complimentary copy of "*Open Minds to Equality*," a Rethinking Schools Publication. Space is limited to 25 students per series, so register early! Limited scholarships are available. For more information, call (732) 745-9330.

- *Responsive Classroom Summer Workshops in NJ*

July 14-18, 2008

Lore Elementary School

13 Westwood Dr

Ewing, NJ 08628

609-538-9800

Workshops Offered:

**Responsive Classroom I**

Participants learn about five of the fundamental practices of the *Responsive Classroom* approach: Morning Meeting, Rule Creation, Interactive Modeling, Positive Teacher Language, and Logical Consequences.

**Literacy in a Responsive Classroom (LIT)**

Apply Responsive Classroom strategies to the teaching of literacy. Participants will discover ways to engage children with a broad range of learning styles and histories in active literacy learning.

July 21-25, 2008

Conover Road Elementary School

56 Conover Rd

Colts Neck, NJ 07722

Workshops Offered:

**Responsive Classroom I** (see description above)

**Responsive Classroom II**

Participants learn about Guided Discovery, Academic Choice, Classroom Organization, and Collaborative Problem Solving and deepening understanding of Logical Consequences.

For more information, or to register online, visit the Responsive Classroom website at:

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

- *Update Your Harassment Intimidation and Bullying Policy*

The Rutgers Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project

July 29, 2008

9:00am to 1:00pm

Rutgers University, Cook Campus Center

New Brunswick, NJ

The workshop is designed to help participants update their district's Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (H.I.B.) Policy, as per the amended provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14 and 15.1 adopted on August 6, 2007, and further revised in January 2008. The Rutgers Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) Project encourages you to send a team of representatives from your district. Participants should bring a copy of their current policy to the workshop.

Registration is free and open to all public, non-public and charter school districts in New Jersey. For more information, contact [sdfsc@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:sdfsc@rci.rutgers.edu) or call 732.445.6173 or visit the SDFSC website at: <http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu/>.

- *We the People* Professional Development Workshop for New Jersey Upper Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers

October 22, 2008

New Jersey Law Center

New Brunswick, NJ

The New Jersey Center for Civics and Law-Related Education (NJCCLE) will be offering a one day [workshop](#) in New Brunswick this fall for teachers interested in using *We the People* materials in their classrooms. If you are interested in attending this workshop, you may want to get board approval this spring. Teachers who attend this workshop will receive professional development hours and one free set of textbooks for their classrooms. Registration fee is \$30. Contact NJCCLE at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) for more details.

- DSACS Project and CAPA Schools

The Developing Safe and Civil Schools: A Social-Emotional and Character Development (DSACS) initiative has been working closely with many of the schools identified under the Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement (CAPA) initiative of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in addition to other schools and school districts in New Jersey. The CAPA initiative was designed to empower schools and districts to go beyond current efforts to improve student achievement by pinpointing obstacles, identifying needs and developing solutions to improve school performance. The DSACS project has worked closely with the NJDOE's Office of Title I Program Planning and Accountability and the Office of Abbott Services in assisting some of the CAPA schools improve student achievement by specifically addressing the indicators under Standard 4: School Culture.

DSACS is designed to build educational resources in participating schools for improving the effective coordination of social-emotional learning (SEL) programs, policies, curricula and services within schools, across schools, and across school districts. An essential part of DSACS is the annual use of an anonymous school climate survey completed by staff and students. Schools receive feedback, based on an analysis of local survey results, for the development of action plans to improve SEL conditions and also receive follow-up consultation and ongoing support in the execution of the plans. Other DSACS activities include the delivery of workshops for teachers designed to improve classroom climate and engage students in learning, and the provision of linkages with professional development programs offered by New Jersey statewide education-related associations.

DSACS is a cooperative initiative funded by the NJDOE, using Title IV-A grant funds provided by the United States Department of Education, and administered by the Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers University. Services to DSACS participants are free of charge.

All schools and school districts are invited to participate in the DSACS project. For additional information, or to inquire about participation in DSACS, please contact Maurice J. Elias, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University and Director of the Rutgers Social-Emotional Learning Lab and the DSACS Initiative, at [MJERU@aol.com](mailto:MJERU@aol.com), or visit the SEL laboratory's web site at [www.rci.rutgers.edu/~melias/](http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~melias/)

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## NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Mark Your Calendars Now!**

*CEP's 15th National Forum on Character Education*

*"Character Is Destiny"*

October 17-19, 2008

Washington, DC

Join your fellow character education colleagues in the nation's capital as CEP brings together educators, national decision makers and community leaders for a national dialogue. Discover the best ways to develop young people of good character who become responsible and caring citizens.

Notice that this year's conference runs from Friday through Sunday morning (with some pre-conference workshops on Thursday). This change will allow Character Education Partnership to offer better rates at the hotel and will decrease the number of days educators will have to procure substitutes in order to attend the conference.

For more information on keynote speakers, program sessions, hotel & travel information, exhibitors & sponsors, and registration & fees, visit CEP's website at: <http://www.character.org/>.

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## CHARACTER IN ACTION

- ***You can make a difference at Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum!***

In the Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum, located on campus at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, is looking for enthusiastic volunteers who like to talk with kids about making positive choices in regard to character education and diversity appreciation.

No experience required but should like talking to elementary/middle school kids or day campers about tolerance, discrimination, positive choices, empathy, victim empowerment, community service, etc.

Hours flexible; training available; being a retired teacher is a plus.

For more information: Phone: 609-581-0239; email: [lynnekidsbridge@aol.com](mailto:lynnekidsbridge@aol.com), or visit them online at:

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

## GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- *Caring Institute Accepting Nominations for the Caring Award*

Deadline: September 28, 2008

The [Caring Institute](http://www.caringinstitute.org) 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. RFP link: <http://www.caringinstitute.org/caringawards.html>

- *Verizon Foundation Education Grants*

Deadline: November 1, 2008

Maximum Award: \$5,000 - \$10,000

The Verizon Foundation is in the business of improving lives in literacy, knowledge and a readiness for the 21st Century. Specifically, they help people to:

- Increase their literacy and educational achievement
- Avoid being an abuser or a victim of domestic violence
- Achieve and sustain their health and safety

Eligible organizations seeking grants from the Verizon Foundation must be prepared to track and report program outcomes as well as specific results that demonstrate measurable human impact. In the grant application, organizations must indicate what outcomes are targeted through programming and what results, as specified on the grant application, the organization will measure.

For more information, visit: the Verizon Foundation website at:

<http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/guidelines.shtml>

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## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- *Performance Values: Why They Matter and What Schools Can Do to Foster Their Development*

What kind of character will young people need to meet the challenges they face in school and beyond—and how can schools help them develop it while meeting their own set of challenges?

The Character Education Partnership has announced the publication of a new white paper on performance values, entitled “Performance Values: Why They Matter and What Schools Can Do to Foster Their Development.” To download a FREE copy, visit CEP’s website at:

<http://www.character.org/>.

- *Sustainable, Schoolwide Social and Emotional Learning (SEL): Implementation Guide and*

### *Tool Kit*

The step-by-step guide and 40 tools take school leaders and stakeholder teams through the process of planning for and accomplishing the changes needed for sustainable SEL.

Steps include:

- Creating a vision for schoolwide SEL
- Assessing current resources and needs
- Choosing an evidence-based SEL program
- Integrating SEL into academic subjects
- Evaluating outcomes
- Ongoing professional development for staff, and
- Communicating to families and the community.

Based on research and interviews with expert practitioners, the guide not only maps each step in the process but also defines sustainability factors essential to success. Case study vignettes provide real-world examples of each step and factor in action. A great implementation support for any SEL program!

For more information and to order, go to: [http://www.casel.org/downloads/CASEL\\_flyer\\_final.pdf](http://www.casel.org/downloads/CASEL_flyer_final.pdf)

- *Coming in July - New Constitution Day Resources from The Bill of Rights Institute*  
Celebrate Constitution Day 2008, September 17, with new materials provided by the Bill of Rights Institute. Resources include an all-new online module – an interactive flash experience, connecting students with the thoughts and ideas of the Constitutional Convention.

The Bill of Rights Institute also offers a variety of other educational resources free of charge. Weekly [eLessons](#) offer 20-minute discussion guides for middle and high school history and government teachers. Each eLesson includes a lively background reading, discussion questions and extension options. Visit their newly designed website at <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/> to browse the [Constitution Day](#), [Bill of Rights Day](#), and [Primary Source Activities](#) sections and access resources which include interactive Flash presentations, lesson plans, readings, and activities.

- *Limited quantity of free textbooks available from NJ Center for Civic & Law-Related Education (NJCCLE)*  
A limited number of free classroom sets of [We the People](#) and [Project Citizen](#) textbooks are available to social studies teachers throughout New Jersey. To apply for one free set of these textbooks, visit the NJCCLE website at the links below:  
[We the People \(upper elementary, middle, and high school\)](#)  
[Project Citizen \(middle and high school\)](#)

Also available from NJCCLE: [Conflict Resolution and United States History](#)

This comprehensive supplement for U.S. history teachers provides a motivating methodology for teaching American history. Students use conflict resolution and problem-solving skills to role play historical figures, and gain important life skills and a rich understanding of history in the process. The curriculum includes:

The latest scholarship from more than 25 leading historians;

Role playing activities involving 20 conflicts in American history;  
 Practical lessons and materials on teaching conflict resolution skills;  
 A CD with more than 200 reproducible primary source documents, overheads/student handouts, maps, and illustrations.  
 A DVD showing middle and high school students engaged in role-playing historical figures using conflict resolution skills.

Additional information on this curriculum package, along with a [free sample lesson](#), is available on the NJCCLRE website. Details on [ordering this package](#) are also available on their site: <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/>

- ***Free Resource: New Civics and Citizenship Toolkit***

The *Civics and Citizenship Toolkit* is an initiative of the Task Force on New Americans, a federal partnership created to strengthen the efforts of federal, state, and local agencies in providing immigrants the information they need to learn English, understand American civic engagement, and embrace American culture and history.

The *Civics and Citizenship Toolkit* contains a variety of educational materials designed to help permanent residents learn more about the United States and prepare for the naturalization process. Each of the *Civics and Citizenship Toolkit*'s materials is designed as a self-study resource for immigrants or instruction tool for volunteers and adult educators.

Products and publications in the toolkit include:

*Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants* (English and Spanish versions)

*Learn About the United States: Quick Civic Lessons*

*The Citizen's Almanac and Pocket Size Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States*  
 Civics Flash Cards

Civics and Citizenship Multimedia Presentation (2-disc set)

*A Promise of Freedom: An Introduction to History and Civics for Immigrants* (DVD)

Use the *Civics and Citizenship Toolkit* to:

Create a special collection for immigrants

Incorporate in your community programming

Include in English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship classes

Utilize as a promotional tool for your organization

Find the toolkit at <http://www.citizenshiptoolkit.gov>. Additional resources on citizenship can be found in The Resource Center of the Corporation for National & Community Service's website at: [http://nationalserviceresources.org/resources/online\\_pubs/index.php#citizenship](http://nationalserviceresources.org/resources/online_pubs/index.php#citizenship)