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**From:** "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>  
**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2008 1:40 PM  
**Subject:** [Character\_education\_network] CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online -September 2008 Issue

## CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List September 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:

- **Getting Off to a Great Start**
- **Applications Available Now! - 2009 New Jersey Schools of Character**
- **Workshops & conferences support professional development**
- **Provider Directory returns to CSCD website**
- **ASCD's *The Whole Child Initiative***
- **and much more!**

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## FROM THE CSCD DIRECTOR

In case you missed our recent message alerting you to our first VoiceThread, *Getting Off to a Great Start: Morning Meetings*, VoiceThread is an online media "album" that allows a group of people to make comments on images, videos, and documents, in a simple and collaborative way. You can participate 5 different ways - using your voice (with a microphone or telephone), text, audio file, or video (with a webcam).

We're hoping that educators like you will like sharing ideas, questions, and experiences in this format and help us to build sharable resources and professional dialogue this way. To see our Morning Meeting VoiceThread, just click on this link:

[http://www.rucharakter.org/page/voicethread\\_one/](http://www.rucharakter.org/page/voicethread_one/). After viewing the VoiceThread, we invite you to register (simple process), and then join in the VoiceThread conversation about your experience with Morning Meetings. We're interested in your reaction to this new way of communicating, and welcome your emails or calls, or add your comments right to the VoiceThread.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.  
Director

## CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- *2009 New Jersey Schools of Character Application Available Now!*

**Deadline: December 8, 2008**

NJ schools interested in participating in the 2009 New Jersey Schools of Character award program can now download the NJSOC application and addendum from the Center for Social and Character Development's (CSCD) website at: <http://www.rucharakter.org/>.

The Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University coordinates the New Jersey [State Schools of Character](#) (SSOC) award program as a preliminary step for NJ schools to advance to the National Schools of Character awards. This tiered approach allows more schools and districts to be recognized and provides exemplary sites to serve as models and coaches for other educators.

The last of two free technical assistance workshops *How to Prepare Your New Jersey Schools of Character Application*, sponsored by CSCD will be held on October 23 at the Passaic County Technical Institute. (See the PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES section below). For more information about the state level program, contact CSCD at 732.445.7504.

For more information about the national program and grant, see the GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES section below.

- *Provider Directory returns to CSCD website*

The Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University has reformatted the Provider Directory which now appears on the website at:

<http://www.rucharakter.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/>. The purpose of the *Provider Directory* is to provide guidance to school districts in their choice of selecting, implementing and evaluating social-emotional and character education programs, activities and services.

The *Provider Directory* is divided into two main sections: **Programs** and **Resources**.

**Programs** offer Pre-K to 12 curricula, staff development and training, as well as teacher guides and other related materials.

Resources are divided into four categories: **Consultants**, **Evaluators**, **Publishers**, and **Presenters**.

Consultants provide services focusing on character education needs assessment, implementation planning, program selection, curriculum infusion and evaluation.

Evaluators provide clients with services to measure character education program outcomes using various methods and research designs.

Publishers offer print publications, curricular materials, audio visuals, and software products.

Presenters offer character education-related performances and demonstrations.

*Please Note:* Specific programs, resources, organizations, web-sites or materials are not endorsed in any way by the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University (CSCD) nor the New Jersey Department of Education, nor is content evaluated or verified.

### Recommendations for Using the Provider Directory

The [Program Review Checklist](#) included in the Professional Development section of the CSCD website provides criteria that define quality comprehensive character education and outlines key points to keep in mind when assessing the quality, applicability and comprehensiveness of character education programs and products.

Take the time to become fully acquainted with the programs and resources in the *Provider Directory* before making a final decision regarding your character education professional development plans. Carefully consider the importance of staff development, how the program or resource aligns to your curriculum and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, and accessibility of the provider. Keep in mind that profile descriptions have been provided by each program and/or resource organization and have not been evaluated or verified by CSCD or the NJDOE.

If you have questions about the *Provider Directory*, please contact: The Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University, 732.445.7504.

- ***Sprint Grants for Character Education Awarded***

Three NJ schools were among 45 public schools to receive funding this year from the [Sprint Ahead for Education](#) grant program. They are:

**Shongum School**, Randolph, NJ for their project: PRIDE (Positive Responsive Individuals Delivering Excellence)

**Macopin Middle School**, West Milford, NJ for their project: Stand Up, Speak Out, Step In!

**Angelo L. Tomaso Elementary School**, Warren, NJ for their project: Conflict Resolution and Anti-bullying Program Implementation

Sprint Ahead for Education is a brand new program that supports innovative character education initiatives through funding of K-12 public schools and school districts. A total of 19 school districts received up to \$25,000 in grant funds, and 45 public schools received funding up to \$5,000. In total, the Sprint Foundation awarded more than \$607,000 in grant funding for this program. [Read about the winners.](#)

The Sprint Foundation is the title sponsor for Character Education Partnership's [National Forum on Character Education](#) in October, and they will present two breakout sessions on applying for next year's grants.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *How to Prepare Your New Jersey Schools of Character Application*

Final technical assistance workshop

October 23, 2008 (North/Central)

9:30am to 12 noon

Passaic County Technical Institute (Lecture Hall)

45 Reinhardt Road

Wayne, New Jersey 07470

These free workshops sponsored by the Center for Social and Character Development (CSCD) have been designed for educators to:

- ✓ Learn about the New Jersey Schools of Character (NJSOC) program
- ✓ Find out how to participate
- ✓ Understand the application process
- ✓ Learn how to get started
- ✓ Get tips on improving your application
- ✓ Meet other interested colleagues

*NOTE: Because this year's application deadline is December 8, 2008, we have scheduled these workshops early in September and October to give interested participants enough time to plan, organize, and prepare high quality applications.*

To register: Go to the NJDOE Professional Development Events website at:

<http://education.state.nj.us/events/> and select the workshop date/location that you prefer. Don't forget to click on the links for Directions to your chosen workshop location. Space is limited, so register today!

Workshop Presenter: Eileen Dachnowicz

Supervisor of Academic Affairs (Retired), Cranford High School, Cranford, NJ

NSOC Screener, Site Visitor and Book Author

Eileen Dachnowicz, the administrator who guided Cranford High School to become a National School of Character in 2004 will walk you through the application process and share some strategies that worked for her school.

Workshop attendees will get comprehensive and practical information that will prepare and guide schools in the NJSOC application process, such as:

- ✓ Getting organized — Using the Eleven Principles as your framework
- ✓ Quality Standards — How does your Character Education initiative measure up?
- ✓ Developing your plan — Who, What, When, Why, How
- ✓ Writing your narrative — How to make every word count
- ✓ Portfolios — A picture is worth a thousand words
- ✓ Evidence — Selecting effective examples of results
- ✓ And much, much more!

For those of you who would like to attend but are unable to get permission to leave your buildings to participate in either of these events, CSCD is planning to provide a webinar type resource that will be an alternative. However, Eileen Dachnowicz is a top national expert in the Schools of Character application process, and we encourage you to attend one of her sessions if possible.

- *Conducting Practical Needs Assessments*  
Rutgers University Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project  
October 16, 2008  
9:00am – 1:00pm  
Gloucester County Office of Education, Sewell, NJ

October 17, 2008  
9:00am – 1:00pm  
Livingston Public Library, Livingston, NJ

October 23, 2008  
9:00am – 1:00pm  
Rutgers University, Cook Campus Center  
New Brunswick NJ

Presented by the staff of the Rutgers University Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project (SDFSC), these workshops will help you understand the purpose and benefits of conducting a needs assessment in the development of comprehensive alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention planning. SDFSC staff will provide you with the components of a needs assessment plan and discuss how to prioritize your needs. Participants will have the opportunity to create their own needs assessment plan. Topics to be addressed:

- What is a needs assessment and how does it fit into a logic model approach to developing prevention programs?
- What are practical approaches to conducting a needs assessment?
- Where can you find resources to assist you?
- How do you develop your own needs assessment?

There is no registration fee for this event, but participants must pre-register to attend. Visit the SDFSC website at: <http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu/> to pre-register. For more information or assistance with registration, please contact SDFSC at: 732-445-6173 or [sdfsc@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:sdfsc@rci.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 (NJCLRE) 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 NJCLRE at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) for more details.

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## NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- *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/>.

- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast U.S. Conference on Character Education  
*Character Matters: Strategies Leading to Excellence in Student Achievement, Attitudes and Actions"*

November 5, 2008

8:00am – Registration opens

9:30am – Conference begins

The Sage Colleges – Albany Campus

140 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY

Registration deadline – Oct. 29, 2008

This year's keynote address will be given by Dr. Steven Birchak, author of *How to Build a Child's Character*. He will discuss "A Dynamic, Uplifting and Informed Teacher Advocate." The Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges plans more than 24 breakout sessions on topics such as:

- Recent Research on the Professional Ethical Learning Community and Performance Character
- Middle School Models for Service Learning and Character Education
- Character and a Culture of Excellence

For more information, visit:

[http://www.sage.edu/centers/charactered/events/upcoming/conference\\_nov08/](http://www.sage.edu/centers/charactered/events/upcoming/conference_nov08/).

- Coalition of Essential Schools Fall Forum 2008  
*Live It. Learn It. Change It.*

November 6-8, 2008

Charlotte, North Carolina

The Fall Forum is CES's primary networking and professional development event, bringing together several thousand educators, students, parents, and leading thinkers in education from

around the world to exchange ideas, ask questions, and share insights about effective school practices and designs. The conference consists of workshops, interest group gatherings, and other sessions in the content strands of teaching, learning, and assessment; school culture, practices, and design; leadership; and community connections.

For more details about conference logistics or general Fall Forum information, contact Amy Rodriguez Lee, [arlee@essentialschools.org](mailto:arlee@essentialschools.org) or visit the CES website at: <http://www.essentialschools.org/>.

## CHARACTER IN ACTION

- *Nominate someone who has made a difference in a child's life*  
New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (CAP) 2009 Awards  
Application deadline – Dec 15, 2008  
NJ CAP recognizes people around the state who have worked as tireless advocates for bullying and/or child abuse prevention. NJ CAP invites you to submit a nomination for someone you know who has “made a difference” in the area of bullying and/or child abuse prevention. A subcommittee of the NJ CAP Advisory Board will review all applications and will then select the recipients for the 2009 awards ceremony. Award recipients will be honored at the ceremony and luncheon on April 3, 2009.

Awards are presented by representatives from the NJ Department of Education, The Division of Youth & Family Services, The NJ Task Force on Child Abuse & Neglect, The NJ Department of Children and Families, the NJ Chapter of Parents Anonymous, NJ Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, and many other well respected state agencies. Governor Jon S. Corzine will be the invited guest of honor.

For more information and a nomination form, visit: [http://www.njcap.org/nj\\_cap\\_awards.wbp](http://www.njcap.org/nj_cap_awards.wbp)

## GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- *2009 National Schools of Character Program*  
Character Education Partnership  
Deadline: December 8, 2008  
Maximum Award: Up to \$10,000  
Every year, the Character Education Partnership (CEP) names approximately 10 public and private schools and districts (K–12) as National Schools of Character (NSOC) for their outstanding work in character education. The awards program honors these exemplars, showcases their work, and facilitates their leadership in the field of character education.

NSOC winners receive a financial grant as high as \$10,000. The amount of each grant is based on the size of the school or district, the extensiveness of the winner's outreach plans, and available resources. Half of each grant is used to enhance the winner's program and send a team to present at the CEP Forum; the other half is used for outreach to other educators. Outreach efforts include providing staff development and mentoring to other schools or districts.

The Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University coordinates the New Jersey [State Schools of Character](#) (SSOC) award program as a preliminary step for NJ schools to advance to the National Schools of Character awards. This tiered approach allows more schools and districts to be recognized and provides exemplary sites to serve as models and coaches for other educators.

To participate, download the New Jersey Schools of Character application and addendum from the CSCD website at: <http://www.rucharacter.org/>

For more information about the national program and grant, visit CEP's website at: <http://www.character.org/nsocapplicationprocess> Contact the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University – 732.445.7504.

- *Toolbox for Education Grant Program*  
Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation  
Deadline: October 17, 2008  
Maximum Award: up to \$5000  
Grant opportunity for individual non-profit public K-12 school or parent group associated with a non-profit public K-12 school. There is a preference for funding requests that have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) as well as landscaping/clean up type projects. Projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit will be favored.  
  
For more information, visit: <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>.
- *Prudential Spirit of Community Awards*  
Prudential Financial  
Student Application Deadline: October 31, 2008  
Maximum Award: \$1000-\$5000  
This national award recognizes students for outstanding achievements in community service. Applications are solicited each fall through more than 40,000 public and private middle-level and schools, and through officially designated local organizations across the country. These organizations include Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs, and affiliates of HandsOn Network. Local Honorees are selected at participating schools and organizations in November, and from these winners, two State Honorees are chosen in each state the District of Columbia. Finally, 10 National Honorees are picked by a panel of prominent judges announced at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., in May.  
  
For more information, go to: <http://www.prudential.com/view/page/public/12846#Who%20is%20eligible?>
- *Nestle Very Best in Youth Program*  
Nestle, USA  
Deadline: November 20, 2008  
Maximum Award: \$1000+  
The Nestle Very Best in Youth Program, sponsored by Nestlé USA, honors young people (ages 13 to 18) who have excelled in school and who are making their community and the world a better place. The young people, selected from nominations from volunteers, parents, and teachers, will

be featured in a special publication and honored at a black-tie ceremony in Los Angeles in July 2009.

For more information, visit: <http://www.nestle-verybestinyouth.com/>.

- ***Reader's Digest Foundation "Make It Matter"***

**Reader's Digest Foundation**

**Deadline: December 31, 2008**

**Period: Over 10 months 4/08-1/09**

"Make it Matter" is a new initiative of the Reader's Digest Foundation. The Foundation will give away \$1 million to nonprofit organizations based on inspiring stories submitted by the public.

Every month for ten months, Reader's Digest will choose one individual whose story of giving back serves as an inspiration to others. For each story, the Reader's Digest Foundation will donate \$100,000 to a nonprofit organization that is associated either with the story or the cause. These individuals and their stories of giving back will appear every month in the new "Make it Matter" column in Reader's Digest and on rd.com, beginning with the April 2008 issue.

For more information, visit the Make It Matter Home Page at:

<http://www.rd.com/jsp/rdcom/makeItMatterLanding.jsp>

- ***Allstate Foundation Funding***

The Allstate Foundation supports national and local programs that fit within three focus areas. Proposals for program support must address needs within one of the three focus areas to be considered for funding:

**Tolerance, inclusion and diversity**

The Allstate Foundation believes that a strong community is one that recognizes and values people of varied backgrounds, including ethnicity, gender, physical challenges, age and lifestyle. Applicants to this area should address:

- Teaching tolerance to youth
- Ending hate crimes
- Alleviating discrimination

**Safe and vital communities**

The Allstate Foundation is dedicated to fostering safe and vital communities where people live, work and raise families. These communities are economically strong, crime-free and residents feel a sense of belonging and commitment.

Applicants to this area should address::

- Catastrophe response
- Youth anti-violence
- Neighborhood revitalization
- Teen safe driving (new for 2005)

**Economic empowerment**

Applicants to this area should address::

- Financial and economic literacy
- Insurance education
- Empowerment for victims of domestic violence (new for 2005)

## Deadlines and Other Procedures

The Foundation has no deadlines for submission. Proposals may be submitted throughout the calendar year. For more information, visit the Allstate Foundation website at:

<http://www.allstate.com/foundation/national-programs.aspx> .

### *Previously listed:*

- *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>

## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- *The Whole Child Initiative*

In March 2007, The Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) launched a major new multi-year proposal - [The Whole Child Initiative](#). ASCD has proposed a broader definition of achievement and accountability that promotes the development of children who are **healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged**. Promoting physical, social, and emotional health as the foundation for success in school is the essence of the approach defined by The Whole Child. ([View ASCD's Whole Child video](#) on YouTube!)

ASCD has launched this public engagement and advocacy campaign to encourage schools and communities to work together to ensure that each student has access to a challenging curriculum in a healthy and supportive climate. It asks that communities look at the whole picture and make sure that:

- Each student enters school **healthy** and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle.
- Each student learns in an intellectually challenging environment that is physically and emotionally **safe** for students and adults.
- Each student is actively **engaged** in learning and is connected to the school and broader community.
- Each student has access to personalized learning and is **supported** by qualified, caring adults.
- Each graduate is **challenged** by a well-balanced curriculum and is prepared for success in college or further study and for employment in a global environment.

ASCD is a 175,000-member organization active in 135 countries whose mission is to advance policies and practices that support the success of all learners. [The Learning Compact Redefined: A Call to Action](#), recommends a new compact with our young people. The Compact asks local, state, and national policymakers to ensure conditions that support comprehensive approaches to learning - for engaging the whole child.

For more information, visit The Whole Child website at <http://www.wholechildeducation.org/>.

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Character\_education\_network mailing list

Character\_education\_network@email.rutgers.edu

[https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/character\\_education\\_network](https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/character_education_network)

To unsubscribe, send mail to [character\\_education\\_network-request@email.rutgers.edu](mailto:character_education_network-request@email.rutgers.edu) with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject.