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To: <CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 6:50 PM
Subject: [Character_education_network] CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online -February 2009 Issue

CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online e-Newsletter February 2009

Welcome to the **CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK** online e-newsletter. The purpose of **The Network** is to encourage the adoption of social, emotional and character education programs and strategies by providing a forum for sharing information, research and promising practices. The Network will offer educators access to national and state character education and social and emotional learning 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; 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 useful websites.

Three Rutgers University projects operating in a partnership with the New Jersey Department of Education provide the content for **The Network**. The Center for Social and Character Development (www.rucharakter.org) edits and publishes the Network in collaboration with the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project (<http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu>) and the Developing Safe and Civil Schools Project (<http://www.teachsecd.com>). All three projects operate under the Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers University.

The Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University is funded under Title V, Part D, Subpart 3, Sec. 5431 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Funds for both the Developing Safe and Civil Schools: A Coordinated Approach for Social-Emotional and Character Development project and the Title IV-A and Unsafe School Choice Option Training and Technical Assistance Project were provided in full by a grant to the New Jersey Department of Education from the United States Department of Education, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the New Jersey Department of Education. No official endorsement by the New Jersey Department of Education of any product, commodity, service, or enterprise mentioned herein is intended or should be inferred.

In this issue:

- [Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities resources](#)
- [2009 New Jersey Schools of Character named](#)
- [New online guide from CETAC provides character education resources](#)
- [Submit your Promising Practice to CEP by March 15](#)
- [Students actively engaged in character development](#)
- [CyberSmart! Cyberbullying Awareness Curriculum](#)
- [PBS offers high quality resources and activities to K-12 teachers](#)
- [Video-sharing transforms how teachers teach and students learn](#)

FROM THE CSCD DIRECTOR

On behalf of our partners, I want to welcome newcomers to The Network who have joined us because of their participation in the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities and Developing Safe and Civil Schools Projects. The Network now reaches more than 4,700 educators throughout New Jersey and beyond.

Each month one of the partners will provide some special information or resources especially relevant to your interests and work. Immediately following this message we feature an introduction to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program by its Director, Dr. Brad Lerman.

I also want to draw your attention to the New Jersey Schools of Character (NJSOC) award program, now in its third year. The NJSOC program has proven to be an effective way to identify schools with outstanding programs that have made significant progress in creating caring, safe school cultures where learning can flourish. Schools that win the award successfully complete demanding applications that demonstrate the merit of their programs, and all applicants receive feedback by trained colleagues that is useful for program growth. Please see below under [NEWS FROM THE FIELD](#) for the 2009 NJSOC participants and awards.

Please note that the award ceremony honoring the 2009 awardees will take place on March 24th at the 2nd annual conference of the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development. This collaboration will bring together on one day, previous winners of the NJSOC award, national promising practice award winners and the 2009 NJSOC award winners. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity to participate in high quality workshops and network with your colleagues who are devoted to the development of the whole child. (See below under [PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT](#) to register for the Conference.)

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.
Director
Center for Social and Character Development

Partner message from Dr. Bradford C. Lerman, Director Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project

I am pleased to announce that the Rutgers Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) Project is continuing to partner with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) through June 2010, to provide training, technical assistance, and consultation services on Title IV-A of the No Child Left Behind Act and the Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO) Policy. These services are provided at no cost to you and include the following:

- Consultation for comprehensive alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) and

violence prevention planning, including needs assessment and program selection, implementation, and evaluation (consistent with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16, Programs to Support Student Development)

- Technical assistance for the preparation, development, and implementation of district Title IV-A (the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act) applications
- Technical assistance to address the Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO) Policy provisions and consultation on the development and implementation of corrective action and school safety plans
- Technical assistance for reviewing, updating, and implementing school district policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB) (consistent with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.9)
- Workshops including: needs assessment; program implementation; program evaluation; harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and practice; and effective collaborations with parents and community members ([workshop information provided below](#))
- Safe and drug-free schools and communities resources including evidence-based practices, data sources, community and web resources, workshop materials and videos, a calendar of events, and links to many additional resources, all of which can be found on the project website (<http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu>)

Training dates have been set through June 2010 and are listed below in the **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** section. Mark your calendars!

Please visit our website at <http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu> for project updates, workshop registration, and workshop materials and resources. You may also contact us by phone: 732-445-6173 or email: sdfsc@rci.rutgers.edu.

[back to top](#)

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

- **2009 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Participants**

The Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers wishes to extend sincere congratulations to the following schools:

2009 NJSOC Winners –

Brigantine Elementary School, Brigantine, NJ
Hamilton Township School District, Hamilton, NJ
Lake Riviera Middle School, Brick, NJ
Lawrence Intermediate School, Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrenceville Elementary School, Lawrenceville, NJ
Liberty Corner School, Liberty Corner, NJ
Lore Elementary School, Ewing, NJ
Northfield Middle School, Northfield, NJ

The above schools have been forwarded on as NJ's nominees to the Character Education Partnership's National Schools of Character competition.

Honorable Mentions –

Bartle Elementary School, Highland Park, NJ
James H. Johnson Elementary School, Cherry Hill, NJ
John A. Carusi Middle School, Cherry Hill, NJ
Joseph J. Catena Elementary School, Freehold, NJ
Kingston Elementary School, Cherry Hill, NJ
Lincoln School/Newark, Newark, NJ
Marlboro Memorial Middle School, Morganville, NJ
Memorial Junior School, Whippany, NJ
Pennsauken Campus of Camden County Technical Schools,
 Pennsauken, NJ
Woodcrest School, Cherry Hill, NJ

Emerging Schools –

Lakeland Regional High School, Wanaque, NJ
Sayreville Middle School, Sayreville, NJ

[back to top](#)

- **NEW Character Education Resource for Teachers – An Online Guide**

The Character Education and Civic Engagement Technical Assistance Center (CETAC) has launched its online Teacher Resource Guide with the primary audience being classroom teachers in PreK-12 school settings. The resource guide aims to promote the use of best practices for the teaching and learning process to promote effective practices for high quality character education in schools.

In addition to important background information about establishing effective character education, the resource guide organizes useful information into four categories: Teaching Character Education; Teacher Resources; Useful Research Findings; and Supporting Character Education. Within these sections you will find:

- readily accessible sample lesson plans
- unit materials for teaching character education
- directions for the use of research-based instructional strategies
- sample assessment tools and techniques, and
- directions for establishing safe and supportive school and classroom cultures that promote student learning.

Find new tools and strategies for promoting character instruction in your classroom. Visit the resource website at: <http://www.cetac.org/teacherresource/>. This research is sponsored or supported by national organizations, foundations, universities, and the Federal government, which include projects funded by the Partnerships in Character Education Program of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

New

- **Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project**

Register now for 2008-2009 school year workshops

Training dates have been set through June 2010 and are listed below: Mark your calendars and register now by visiting the SDFSC website at <http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu/calendar>.

Effective Collaborations with Parents and Community Members

February 26, 2009 - Piscataway, NJ
 March 17, 2009 - Livingston, NJ
 April 7, 2009 - Vineland, NJ
 February 25, 2010 - Piscataway, NJ

Planning & Implementing ATOD Programs

April 2, 2009 - Sewell, NJ
 April 21, 2009 - Piscataway, NJ
 April 23, 2009 - Livingston, NJ
 April 14, 2010 - Sewell, NJ
 April 20, 2010 - Piscataway, NJ
 April 22, 2010 - Livingston, NJ

Reviewing and Updating Your District's Policy Prohibiting Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)

July 15, 2009 - Piscataway, NJ
 July 21, 2009 - Livingston, NJ
 July 29, 2009 - Sewell, NJ

Conducting Practical Needs Assessments

October 14, 2009 - Sewell, NJ
 October 20, 2009 - Piscataway, NJ
 October 29, 2009 - Livingston, NJ

Evaluating Comprehensive ATOD Programs

March 11, 2010 - Sewell, NJ
 March 18, 2010 - Piscataway, NJ
 March 25, 2010 - Livingston, NJ

Please visit the website at <http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu> for project updates, workshop registration, and workshop materials and resources. You may also contact SDFSC by phone: 732-445-6173 or email: sdfsc@rci.rutgers.edu.

[back to top](#)

- **18th Annual Law-Related Education Conference**

New Jersey State Bar Foundation

Friday, March 13, 2009

8:00am to 2:00pm

New Jersey Law Center

One Constitution Square

New Brunswick, NJ

Join fellow educators at the NJ Law Center to explore law-related issues such as cyber-bullying, genocide, gangs, special education law for mainstream teachers and other school staff. Presenters will identify creative ways to integrate those and other aspects of law-related education into the existing curriculum. The full-day conference is free of charge, however, a refundable \$20 security deposit check, must accompany each registration. Participating New Jersey teachers will receive professional development credit. For more information, call 732.937.7518 or visit

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

- **2nd Annual New Jersey Alliance for Social Emotional and Character Development Statewide Conference**

“Moving Toward Your Vision: Creating a Culture of Character”

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

[Rutgers University Busch Campus](#)

Piscataway, NJ

Register now on-line at <http://www.NJASECD.org> through our umbrella organization, Educational Information & Resource Center (EIRC). The cost is \$65 including membership.

Click [HERE](#) for directions.

Don't miss this excellent conference where you'll witness:

- BEST CHARACTER EDUCATION PRACTICES being demonstrated by some of our colleagues from around the State.
- Morning Keynote Speaker: Dr. Maurice Elias
- 2009 New Jersey Schools of Character Awards will be presented during the conference.

Sponsored by the New Jersey Alliance for Social-Emotional & Character Development (NJASECD) in collaboration with Rosa International Middle School, a 2008 National Schools of Character Winner, The Center for Social & Character Development at Rutgers University, The New Jersey Department of Education, and The Educational Information & Resource Center (EIRC). NJASECD is a network dedicated to educating its members regarding pertinent research, fostering best practices, facilitating the exchange of resources and ideas, and advocating for the importance of a collaborative and caring organizational climate, and a healthy school culture. For more information about NJASECD and the conference, please contact Mr. John Muller with EIRC at 856-582-7000, ext. 156

[back to top](#)

Previously listed:

- **The 3rd Annual Equity & Social Justice in Education Conference
Preparing Educators for Diversity & Inclusion: A Call to Aspiring Educators and Practitioners
March 28, 2009
Stockton College, Pomona, NJ**

All teachers, trainers, staff, and administrators are invited to attend this conference. (ETTC Hours are accepted.) For more information on attending or submitting a proposal for presentation, visit their website at <http://www.equitysocialjustice.org>.

- **Workshops offered on Code of Student Conduct –
Save these Dates: March 30, April 21, April 27**

Three regional workshops will be offered by CSCD in collaboration with the Office of Educational Support Services in the NJ Department of Education to assist school districts in revising and revitalizing their codes of student conduct in compliance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7. The requirement that codes of student conduct should be based on locally agreed upon core ethical values is monitored through the QSAC review process. Register now on the NJDOE website at: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

March 30 (central)

Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University
ANSWER Conference Room
41 Gordon Rd., Suite C
Piscataway, NJ

April 21 (north)

Livingston Library
Livingston, NJ

April 27 (south)

Gloucester County Office of Education
Sewell, NJ

[back to top](#)

NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Apply Now for a Promising Practice
Online Applications due by March 15, 2009**

As part of the National Schools of Character (NSOC) awards program, the Character Education Partnership (CEP) gives Promising Practices awards to schools and districts in the United States and elsewhere for implementing unique and specific strategies in character education.

If your school or district has developed and successfully implemented a unique character education practice, we encourage you to apply for a Promising Practices award. CEP is not looking for a description of your entire character education initiative, but rather for a specific practice or aspect of your program that other schools may learn from and even replicate. **How to Apply**

1. [Download 2009 Application Guidelines](#)
2. Complete the online [Promising Practices Award Application](#) You will be prompted to enter the following:

- basic information about you and your school or district.
- the name of our practice as you wish for it to appear and the date it began
- information about how you learned about this award
- attach (upload) your response to the three Narrative Questions

CEP's [Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education](#) and [Character Education Quality Standards](#) can be helpful tools in responding to the Narrative Questions. All applications must be submitted online by March 15, 2009.

- **March**

March 18-21, 2009 - National Service Learning Conference
Nashville, TN; <http://www.nylc.org/conference>

- **April**

April 2-4, 2009 - National AfterSchool Association's 21st Annual Convention
New Orleans, LA; <http://www.naaconvention.org/index.html>

April 16 – 17, 2009 - CAEC's Spring Institute, Educating for Citizenship
Boston University, Boston, MA.

The Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character (CAEC)'s Spring Institute is a stimulating retreat that cultivates the intellectual lives of educators, inspires them to embrace a renewed sense of responsibility and dedication to the art of teaching, and instills in them a deeper understanding of how to educate for character. Contact Eileen Gessner at caec@bu.edu or visit the CAEC website at: <http://www.bu.edu/sed/caec/files/springinstitute09.htm>.

[back to top](#)

CHARACTER IN ACTION

- **What Kids Can Do**

Based in Providence, R.I., What Kids Can Do (WKCD) is a national nonprofit founded in January 2001 to promote perceptions of young people as valued resources, not problems, and to advocate for learning that engages students as knowledge creators and not simply test takers. WKCD also works brings youth voices to policy debates about school, society, and world affairs. Using the Internet, print, and broadcast media, WKCD communicates a dual message: the power of what young people can accomplish when given the opportunities and supports they need, and what they can contribute when we take their voices and ideas seriously. The youth who concern WKCD most are those marginalized by poverty, race, and language.

On their website, WKCD presents young people's lives, learning, and work, and their partnerships with adults both in and out of school. Their community of readers stretches from youth organizers in some of this country's toughest urban areas to policy makers at the national level. Visit their website at <http://www.whatkidscando.org/> to read amazing stories and view powerful videos illustrating what kids can and are doing. Then accept an invitation from WKCD to submit the

work that you and your students are engaged in.

- **Do Something**

Central to the Do Something mission is the belief that young people have the power to make a difference. Using the power of the internet to help young people change the world, the Do Something website creates a community where young people learn, listen, speak, vote, volunteer, ask, and take action to make the world a better place. Students visiting their website can find programs and resources that provide opportunities to volunteer, establish projects and clubs, participate in active campaigns like Teens for Jeans, or volunteer in causes such as [discrimination](#); [international human rights](#); [poverty](#); [violence and bullying](#); [war, peace and politics](#). For more information, visit <http://www.dosomething.org/>.

[back to top](#)

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program**

Deadline: March 15, 2009

Maximum Award: \$50-\$5000

The Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program recognizes and rewards young volunteers (ages 6-18) who help make their communities better places. Kohl's will award more than \$350,000 in scholarships and prizes to more than 2,000 kids whose volunteer efforts have made positive impacts on their communities. Nominees must be between the ages of 6 and 18 and not yet a high school graduate as of March 15, 2009. Each nominee must be nominated by someone age 21 years or older.

For more information:

Visit URL: <http://www.kohlscorporation.com/AboutKohls/AboutKohls01.htm>

Email: kohls@scholarshipamerica.org; Call: 1-507-931-1682 and ask for Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program; or

Write: Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program

Scholarship Management Services

One Scholarship Way, P.O. Box 297

Saint Peter, MN 56082

WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- **CyberSmart! Cyberbullying Awareness Curriculum**

Free download available at: <http://cybersmartcurriculum.org/>

CyberSmart! has launched the nation's first research-based cyberbullying prevention curriculum in partnership with a positive and empowering suite of K-12 lessons provided free to schools in partnership with The National School Boards Association's Technology Leadership Network, the Character Education Partnership, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the National Cyber Security Alliance.

The CyberSmart! Student Curriculum provides non-sequential standards-based S-M-A-R-T lesson plans and student activity sheets to empower K-12 students to use the Internet safely, responsibly,

and effectively. The lesson plans are designed to be integrated into the existing curriculum and cover a variety of topics, including social networking, cyberbullying, and search engine use. Teachers can also download a free educator toolbar to access an assortment of online tools, library resources, and classroom coursework every time they open their Internet browsers.

Developed with the close collaboration of professional educators, curriculum experts, and Internet industry innovators, CyberSmart! addresses Internet safety and security issues within the broader objective of helping educators and students acquire 21st century skills, paving the way for the education sector constituents to harness the Internet's potential to foster creative inquiry, collaboration, and critical thinking—the skills students need to be successful learners and workers in the emerging digital world. The CyberSmart! Cyberbullying Package is available free of charge and can be accessed at www.cybersmartcurriculum.org/cyberbullying/

[back to top](#)

- [New Resource - PBS Teachers Activity Packs](#)

PBS Teachers provides thousands of lesson plans, interactive games and simulations, maps, photos, essays and more on all major educational topics.

The newest addition to PBS Teachers is a new library of Activity Packs. These sets of educational resources focus on a variety of themes and are packaged in a widget-format that teachers can embed in their class or social media web pages. Each pack includes links to PBS web sites and a set of activities by grade level. Many of these widgets offer links to curriculum guides, lesson plans & interactives, tools to engage students, and RSS feeds and Podcast downloads for the latest information about related issues.

These standards-based resources are available in a variety of categories including [Social Studies](#) and [Health and Fitness/Health Choices](#). Social studies packs cover themes such as [global populations](#), [citizenship](#) and the [American identity](#), [The Presidency](#), and [crime & justice](#), and others. Health and Fitness/Health Choices offer resources on topics relevant to pre-teens ages 8-13 ([It's My Life](#), a safe online community to explore the life skills issues that most affect them), and teens ([In the Mix](#), based on the national award-winning TV series for teens and by teens). Each of these sites includes sections for educators providing related resources, lesson plans and discussion guides.

Explore these and other resources by visiting PBS Teachers at: <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/>.

- **Teacher Tube**

Looking much like its distant cousin, YouTube, TeacherTube provides an online community for sharing instructional videos. It was created to fill a need for a more educationally focused, safe venue for teachers, schools, and home learners. It is a site to provide anytime, anywhere professional development with teachers teaching teachers. As well, it is a site where teachers can post videos designed for students to view in order to learn a concept or skill.

[Click here](#) to see an impactful TeacherTube video, [Why Ethics Matters](#), for a glimpse at the power of adult modeling on kids' ethical behaviors and attitudes. (Note: This site does contain pop-up ads.)

With TeacherTube, community members can:

- Upload, tag and share videos worldwide.
- Upload Support Files to attach your educational Activities, Assessments, Lesson

Plans, Notes, and Other file formats to your video.

- Browse hundreds of videos uploaded by community members.
- Find, join and create video groups to connect with people who have similar interests.
- Customize the experience by subscribing to member videos, saving favorites, and creating playlists.
- Integrate TeacherTube videos on websites using video embeds or APIs.
- Make videos public or private - users can elect to broadcast their videos publicly or share them privately with those they invite.

Most importantly, TeacherTube community members are a major part of the evolution of the site. Members are encouraged to not only upload educationally relevant videos, but also to make constructive comments and use the rating system to show appreciation for videos of value to one as an educator or learner. Users also have the ability to preserve the integrity of the site by flagging inappropriate videos. TeacherTube staff review flagged sites and will remove any inappropriate posts. With more collegial commentary and discussion through messaging and responses, the quality of this resource will only increase.

The service is free for everyone. For more information, visit <http://www.teachertube.com/>.

[back to top](#)

Character_education_network mailing list

Character_education_network@email.rutgers.edu

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

To unsubscribe, send mail to character_education_network-request@email.rutgers.edu with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject.