
From: "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>
To: <CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>
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Subject: [Character_education_network] CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online -January 2009 Issue

CHARACTER_EDUCATION_NETWORK Online Mail List January 2009

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 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, 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) will lead you to current articles and research from the field as well as materials and large documents which you can download for use in your classroom.

The 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. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the New Jersey Department of Education. No official endorsement by the New Jersey Department of Education of any product, commodity, service, or enterprise mentioned herein is intended or should be inferred.

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FROM THE CSCD DIRECTOR

We are on the cusp of a significant milestone in American history, the inauguration of the nation's

first African-American president. It is a time to rejoice with national civic pride that, despite our vast differences in points of view regarding specific issues, there are clear values that are alive and well at the heart of our republic, and which the larger world appreciates. The peaceful transition of power itself is a testament to how we must be able to live together with civility to thrive as a people. You may be interested to read the open letter to President-elect Obama written by Joe Mazzola, the Executive Director of the Character Education Partnership, which you can find on their website, <http://www.character.org/>.

As I indicated in the last issue, the Network newsletter is in a state of transition. Starting next month we will be including additional information from two primary partners, the Developing Safe and Civil Schools project and the Rutgers University Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project. The basic content that you expect from the Network will still be here, and we trust that the change will increase the breadth of resources available to you.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D
Director

CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- *Public Hearings Scheduled on School Bullying*
January 28, 6-9 p.m.
Lincoln High School, 60 Crescent Avenue, Jersey City

February 18, 6-9 p.m.
Lawrence High School, 2525 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville

February 25, 6-9 p.m.
Gloucester County College, Tanyard Road, Sewell, Health Sciences Building, Room 500

The NJ Commission on Bullying in Schools invites you to attend public hearings on the issue of school bullying and to make recommendations for improvement. The purpose of these hearings is to gather input from parents, educators, students and the general public on issues related to bullying in schools. Public testimony is vital to ensure the best possible solutions, so broad attendance is encouraged. You are invited to share your thoughts on the issue of bullying for up to three minutes. If you would like to submit testimony but do not wish to speak at a public hearing, you are welcome to do so by bringing a document to the hearing or submitting it via the address or e-mail below.

The Commission is specifically interested in receiving input about the efficacy and adequacy of existing laws and remedies, the current status of training and intervention methods and investigating and reporting incidents of bullying.

Each site will be accessible to people with disabilities. People wishing to testify are strongly recommended to pre-register. To pre-register, request assistance with language interpretation or hearing facilitation or submit written testimony outside of the public hearings, please contact Rachel Klein at The Office of the Child Advocate, P.O. Box 092, Trenton, NJ 08625, (609) 984-1188, Email: bullying.commission@childadvocate.state.nj.us.

To learn more, visit the Office of the Child Advocate's website at: <http://www.childadvocate.nj.gov/>. You are encouraged to share this information with your colleagues and friends.

- ***January NJSOC Spotlight Shines on [Brigantine Elementary School](#)***

The philosophy at Brigantine ES is powerful. Simply stated, it is that the relationship among adults who inhabit the school has more to do with the school quality and character and with the accomplishments of its pupils than any other factor. Dr. Robert Previti, the superintendent of schools, praises the Brigantine Elementary School for leading the community, "Character has become the thinking philosophy of our island. We are the best practitioners of what we believe."

Visit CSCD's website http://www.rucharacter.org/page/njsoc_spotlights/ to read the entire January spotlight. Previous features (Lore ES, Hamilton Twp. School District and Veterans Memorial) are also still available.

- ***NJN Classroom CloseUp Features Rosa International MS***

Segment re-airst on Monday, January 26 at 7pm and Saturday, January 31 at 9am

Rosa International Middle School in Cherry Hill is a student-centered environment where administrators, faculty, staff and parents continually review, discuss and explore ways to better meet the needs of every child. The school is a National School of Character, one of just 10 schools nationwide selected for this honor by the Character Education Partnership.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ***Effective Collaborations with Parents, Community Members and Organizations***

Thursday, February 26, 2009

9 A.M. to 1 P.M. (Registration begins at 8:30 A.M.)

Rutgers University Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project

Center for Applied Psychology, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ

This workshop will provide school districts and individual schools with practical strategies for improving collaboration with parents and community groups. Educators will learn how to actively involve parents and community groups with local school efforts to improve student education and build stronger communities. Specific topics to be addressed include:

- Steps that you can take to build a strong working relationship with parents and communities
- Seeing beyond PTA's and "class moms" as the main form of active parental involvement
- How to include learning approaches through the school curriculum for building relationships with community organizations using strategies such as service learning
- Tips for including "empty nesters" and "zero child adults" in your district's planning
- Leveraging win-win opportunities with local businesses

Participants must pre-register to attend. There is no registration fee for this event. To register, visit the SDFSC website at: http://sdfsc.rutgers.edu/page/course.php?course_session_id=52. Contact SDFSC at 732-445-6173 or sdfsc@rci.rutgers.edu for more information or for registration assistance.

- ***[Sexual Violence Prevention- CONNECTING the DOTS](#)***

Thursday March 26, 2009

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) 2009 Conference

Sheraton Eatontown

Eatontown, NJ

Connecting the Dots will feature several nationally known experts in the field of sexual violence prevention who have worked for decades with perpetrators and survivors. Parents, teachers, coaches, counselors, caregivers, health professionals, social service providers and other stakeholders invested in community safety will take away vital tools and strategies for helping to prevent the perpetration of sexual violence.

Three workshops in each of five tracks will be offered, including: Child Abuse, Youth Violence, Developmental Disabilities Community, Gender Norms, and Media. Visit the NJCASA website at: <http://www.njcasa.org/conference09.htm> and learn more about conference [workshops](#) and [speakers](#).

- *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

The 3rd Annual Equity & Social Justice in Education Conference

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 Codes of Student Conduct – Save the Date!*

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. Registration information will be available on the NJDOE website in early February.

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

NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- February

February 11, 2009 - 13th Annual Youth Philanthropy & Service Workshop, Cleveland OH; <http://case.edu/mandelcenter/yps/training/annualworkshop/>

February 15-18, 2009 - 21st Annual At-Risk Youth National Forum - School and Community: Working Together as a Comprehensive Approach to Dropout Prevention, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2009_At-Risk_Youth

- 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>

CHARACTER IN ACTION

- *Youth Service America (YSA) launches Semester of Service*

Youth Service America (YSA) launches Semester of Service on January 19, 2009, a campaign to engage millions of young people across America in semester-long service-learning programs. Semester of Service encourages students, ages 5-25, to develop a semester-long service-learning project that launches on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (January 19, 2009) and culminates on Global Youth Service Day (April 24-26, 2009.) Semester of Service provides the framework and tools for children and youth from schools, colleges and universities, youth centers, and faith-based organizations to improve their communities. Young people will prepare a plan, take action to implement their solution, reflect on their progress and next steps, and celebrate their success.

YSA also has available a Semester of Service Strategy Guide that provides instructions on planning and implementing semester-long service-learning projects. It is a useful tool for teachers seeking creative, hands-on learning opportunities. To download the Strategy Guide visit the YSA website at: <http://tools.ysa.org/downloads/gysd/semester.pdf>.

For more information, visit the Semester of Service website at <http://www.semesterofservice.org> or you can also connect to these Semester of Service online communities:

Semester of Service on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Semester-of-Service/37938807295>

Join the Semester of Service group on ThinkMTV:
<http://think.mtv.com/Groups/semesterofservice/>

Follow the Semester of Service twitter feed: <http://twitter.com/semesterservice>

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- *Sprint Character Education Grant Program*

Acceptance Period: February 2, 2009 at 9am through February 27, 2009 at 6pm.

Maximum Award: \$5,000 (Individual Schools) \$25,000 (Districts)

Sprint and the Sprint Foundation are committed to supporting K-12 education initiatives within the focus area of character education. The Sprint Character Education Grant Program accepts applications for funding of character education programs promoting leadership, youth volunteerism, character education and school pride. Grants will fund the purchase of resource materials, supplies, teacher training and equipment that facilitates character education for K-12 students.

Examples of programs that the Sprint Character Education Grant Program will fund include:

- Character education curriculum and character education teacher training
- Direct project related costs for service learning programs
- Leadership and mentor training

The program is open to all US public schools (K-12) and US public school districts and provides grant funding to support character education programs. For more information, visit: the Sprint Character Education Grant Program at:

<http://www.sprint.com/responsibility/education/character/index.html>

- *Ben & Jerry's Foundation Social Change Projects*

(Deadline: On going)

The Ben & Jerry's Foundation offers competitive grants to not-for-profit, grassroots organizations throughout the United States which facilitate progressive social change by addressing the underlying conditions of societal and environmental problems.

Grant applicants need to demonstrate that their projects will:

- lead to societal, institutional and/or environmental change;
- address the root causes of social or environmental problems; and
- lead to new ways of thinking and acting.

Funding Priorities: Although the Ben & Jerry's Foundation doesn't prioritize any particular issue area for funding, they do focus on the types of activities and strategies an organization uses for creating social change in any number of areas. The Foundation will only consider proposals from grassroots, constituent-led organizations that are organizing for systemic social change. They support programs and projects that are examples of creative problem-solving. For more information and guidelines, visit: <http://www.benjerry.com/foundation/>

WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- *NJ Social Studies Teachers listserv*

Looking for timely information on notices of activities, events, teacher institutes and new civic and law-related education materials, as well as a forum to share information with other teachers across the state? If you are a teacher and would like to be included on this new listserv, email civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu with the subject line "Teacher Listserv," and include your first and last name and email in the body of the message.

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.