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## CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List November 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](http://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.

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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.

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### FROM THE CSCD DIRECTOR

This month marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child*. It is a landmark statement that expands upon the Universal *Declaration of Human Rights*, which preceded it by ten years. For those of us devoted to social-emotional and character development work, it is good to revisit, as it reminds us and demands of us that, in the words of the document, "*mankind owes to the child the best it has to give.*" The Declaration calls upon parents, organizations and governments to recognize children's rights and strive for their observance in accordance with ten principles. Principle 7 is of particular interest:

#### *Principle 7*

*The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages. He shall be given an education which will promote his general culture and enable him, on a basis of equal opportunity, to develop his abilities, his individual judgement, and his sense of moral and social responsibility, and to become a useful member of society.*

*The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents.*

*The child shall have full opportunity for play and recreation, which should be directed to the same purposes as education; society and the public authorities shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right.*

The framers of the Declaration clearly had in mind that the purpose of education entails a broader sense human development than the unitary emphasis on academic achievement that drives so much of educational policy today. Good heavens, the members of the UN General Assembly had the temerity to indicate that children have the right to play and recreate, which, research shows, is when much important learning takes place, particularly in early childhood. But the benefits of playing hard don't end in early childhood. A recent article by Harvard University researchers indicates that strenuous exercise in early adolescence may increase students' academic performance as well as decrease the incidence of childhood obesity (winter 2009 edition, [American Journal of Play](http://www.cirp.org/library/ethics/UN-declaration)). You can view all ten principles of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child at: <http://www.cirp.org/library/ethics/UN-declaration>.

I want to add our congratulations and sense of admiration that Rosa International Middle School in Cherry Hill has received a Blue Ribbon Schools award to sit alongside their National School of Character award. Rosa has offered significant support to the *New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development*, and keynoted their conference last March. See below under CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS for more.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.

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## Partner Article

### From the Developing Safe and Civil School Project

#### On-line SECD Courses and Credentialing Program Continue in January

Rutgers University, in partnership with DSACS, is pleased to announce the implementation of a series of courses in social-emotional and character development that can be taken individually or combined as part of a credentialing program. This unique program is intended to give all educational staff and mental health professionals working with schools or in after-school programs the opportunity to enhance their professional development skills in the field of social-emotional and character development and to earn a credential in Social-Emotional and Character Development.

#### Why Is This Important?

The call for school reform and improvement presents today's educators with a great challenge. How do we strengthen basic skills, increase higher order thinking skills, warn about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, violence and other potentially life-challenging situations while promoting appreciation and respect for diversity? How can we do this effectively, using the best information from theory, research, and practice, both in school and after school? Simply put, how do we prepare our children to be knowledgeable, responsible, caring and contributing members of a very pluralistic and global society? And how do we do this in the face of budget crunches, and federal and state mandates? Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD) is essential to addressing these issues and more and more, schools will want to hire and promote school professionals and after-school program providers who can demonstrate their competence in SECD.

#### Course 1

Course #1 focuses on SECD Theory and Research. Participants get an overview of the importance of having a theory behind their SECD work, an update on the latest research findings, and how SECD applies to classroom management and improvement of students' academic performance. Those taking this course will be well grounded in current knowledge of the theory and research underlying a broad range of social-emotional and character development interventions and interventions in related course areas.

#### Course 2

Course #2 focuses on SECD Pedagogy and Practice. Participants begin with a developmental understanding of SECD across the K-12 spectrum and how one's own SECD affects one's work with students, followed by a focus on how SECD is integrated in practical ways for classroom management, running students groups in school and after school, and in academic lessons. The emphasis is on clarifying the effective SECD approaches that underlie all specific programs and models.

#### Course #1, Timing, Tuition, and CE Credits

Course #1 and Course #2 will each begin on January 18, 2010 and conclude on March 26, 2010. Cost for each is \$225, with a discounted cost of \$175 for NJ residents. Veterans of military service will receive a 15% discount for all course tuition fees. Those successfully completing the course will receive one CEU.

#### How To Enroll

To enroll in Course #1 or #2, all you need to do is:

- confirm with us that you have computer capabilities to access our eCollege.Rutgers site;
- if you are requesting a NJ and/or veteran's discount, provide confirmation via fax or email as part of the registration process Register for Course #1 by going to: <https://catalog.cerkit.rutgers.edu/course/display/10076>

Register for Course #2 by going to: <https://catalog.cerkit.rutgers.edu/course/display/9788>

You can find out additional information about the online courses and the full credentialing program by going to the DSACS web site and clicking on the Online Course building on our virtual campus or through the navigation bar at the left of the page: <http://www.teachsecd.com/launch/launchTeachSECD.html>

Please feel free to share this information with colleagues. If you have had experience with DSACS and you are not sure what to register for, please contact Maurice Elias at [RutgersMJE@AOL.COM](mailto:RutgersMJE@AOL.COM).

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Director, Developing Safe and Civil Schools (DSACS) ([www.teachSECD.com](http://www.teachSECD.com))

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## CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

### *Secretary of Education visits Rosa International Middle School*

On October 27, 2009, U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan traveled to New Jersey, where he joined Gov. Jon Corzine for a tour of Rosa International Middle School in Cherry Hill. They visited classes and talked with students, teachers, and administrators, including Principal Ed Canzanes, science teacher Christine Weigel, and humanities teacher Carolyn Grossi. While there, Duncan and Corzine participated in a roundtable discussion with students, parents, and teachers, and congratulated the school for its Blue Ribbon Schools award. The [Blue Ribbon Schools Program](#) recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

[Click here](#) to hear Rosa's principal, Ed Canzanese, and his staff and parents talk about how character education and achievement go hand-in-hand. (Rosa International Middle School is a [2008 National School of Character](#), and has been recognized in 2007 and 2008 as a New Jersey School of Character).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ***Communities that Learn, Lead and Last: Developing a Culture of Continuous Improvement***

NJ Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development

February 2 or February 22, 2010

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

FEA Conference Center

12 Centre Drive

Monroe Township, NJ 08831

Giselle Martin-Kniep and Joanne Picone-Zochia respond to the question, “What does it take to develop a culture of continuous improvement?” by presenting a framework of four components:

Alignment

Sustainability

Representation

Dispositions of Practice

Presenters suggest that by using this framework educators will be enabled to activate, support, deepen and/or amend a school's improvement infrastructure, helping schools and districts become self-sustaining, self-improving, empowered learning organizations.

This interactive presentation develops leadership capacity to create and sustain an effective vision, supportive culture, and instructional program by connecting and aligning the state initiatives through the work of professional learning communities.

For more information and registration details, [visit the NJASCD website](#)

## NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

December

- ***5th International Conference on Civic Education***

December 6-8, 2009

Gaylord Opryland Resort

Nashville, TN

This interdisciplinary conference draws together researchers and practitioners, including: K-12 educators and counselors, university faculty and researchers, program coordinators, school and university administrators. Sponsored by the Centre for Policy and Practice. [www.civicedconf.info](http://www.civicedconf.info) for more information.

2010

March

- ***New Jersey Alliance for Social-Emotional and Character Development***

3rd Annual Conference

March 22, 2010 – Save the Date!

Rutgers University, Busch Campus Center, Piscataway, NJ

More details and registration information will be coming soon on the [NJASECD website](#).

July

- ***Annual Community of Caring National Conference***

July 15-17, 2010

Hyatt Regency Sarasota

Sarasota, FL

For more information, [www.communityofcaring.org/events/national\\_conference/overview.html](http://www.communityofcaring.org/events/national_conference/overview.html).

## CHARACTER IN ACTION

- ***Youth Leadership Institute Prepares HS Students for Role of Change Agents***

Lead for Diversity, a peer leadership education program of the American Conference on Diversity empowered 129 students from 36 high schools this summer to become change agents in their schools and communities on issues of diversity and prejudice reduction. Students have made a year-long commitment to personal growth, peer leadership development and school improvement. During the summer, teams participated in a week-long peer leadership program designed to prepare them to make decisions based on an appreciation of the diversity, including ethnic, racial, faith, and gender identity within their schools and communities. In the summer of 2009, student teams from 36 charter, public, and independent high schools, and their advisors made the commitment to create positive change in their schools and neighborhoods, identifying opportunities to apply the awareness they gained. They developed Action Plans that will be implemented throughout the school year, helping to create inclusive schools and neighborhood communities. It is estimated that student led Action Plans, intended to affect their school populations, will impact close to 25,000 students throughout New Jersey.

Results have shown that **Lead for Diversity** graduates are better prepared to utilize the skills they acquire by participating in our programs as they enter the greater community, schools of higher education, and the workforce. Delegates completed their assessment of the program at the conclusion of their

Lead for Diversity session. To read the results, click on this link: [Lead for Diversity Survey Report 2009](#)

**Lead for Diversity**, a week-long human-relations peer leadership program open to all high school students across the state of New Jersey, is the cornerstone of the **American Conference on Diversity Youth Leadership Institute**. For more information, visit their website at [www.americanconferenceondiversity.org](http://www.americanconferenceondiversity.org)

## GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### · **Summer of Service Grants**

Application Deadline: December 10, 2009, 5 p.m. EST

The Corporation for National and Community Service has announced new grant funding for its 2010 Learn and Serve America "Summer of Service" grants competition. Grants will support collaborative efforts to implement community-based service-learning projects during the summer months. Programs will engage middle school students (students who will be enrolled in grades 6 through 9 in the school year following the end of the summer) in community-based service-learning projects that are intensive, structured, supervised, and designed to produce identifiable improvements to the community. This opportunity should provide youth, particularly those from disadvantaged circumstances, with service-learning experiences that will motivate them to become more civically engaged and aspire to obtain higher education. Program participants must complete at least 100 hours of service within the summer program and are eligible to receive a \$500 education award in return for their service that can be used to pay for post-secondary education expenses. For this competition, service activities should address environmental and/or disaster preparedness issues relevant to the community served.

For more information, [visit their website](#) or contact Learn and Serve America, [summerofservice@cns.gov](mailto:summerofservice@cns.gov), 202-606-7510.

### · **Lions Quest Celebrating Champions**

Teachers, students, Lions and community members have the opportunity to share their Lions Quest success and be rewarded for a job well done.

*Heroes in the Community*: [Project submissions due March 16, 2010](#)

Top five projects and grand prize winner receive prizes

*Educator Award*: [Application deadline: May 30, 2010](#)

*Eligibility*: U.S. Lions Quest trained educators

Entries will be judged on overall objectives, innovation/unique features and effectiveness. Finalists will receive a set of 25 student materials, and two grand prize winners will receive \$500 classroom grants and trip to Milwaukee for award ceremony.

For details on the *Heroes in the Community Contest* and *Lions Quest Educator Award* visit the Lions Quest [Web site](#) at: [www.lions-quest.org](http://www.lions-quest.org), call 630-468-6960, or e-mail LQ at [info@lions-quest.org](mailto:info@lions-quest.org).

## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

### · **OJJDP National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence**

Children's exposure to violence is pervasive and crosses all ages. The research findings reported by the *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention* are critical to informing our efforts to protect children from its damaging effects.

Conducted between January and May 2008, this comprehensive, nationwide survey measured the past-year and lifetime exposure to violence for children age 17 and younger across several major categories. The bulletin reports that over the past year, 60% of children surveyed had been exposed to violence; nearly half had been assaulted at least once; 25% were victims of robbery, vandalism or theft. The staggering results confirm that more needs to be done to develop and implement programs and policies to prevent violence and to help children who have been exposed. For a copy of the full report, [click here](#) or for a list of all OJJDP publications, visit their website at: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/Publications/index.html>

### · **Speak Up! Free Resource to Help Address Bigotry**

The Southern Poverty Law Center gathered hundreds of stories of everyday bigotry from people across the United States. They told their stories through e-mail, personal interviews and at roundtable discussions in four cities. People spoke about encounters in stores and restaurants, on streets and in schools. No matter the location or relationship, the stories echo each other. In addition to the thought provoking stories, Speak Up! provides practical strategies that help us take action against all forms of bigotry.

Teaching Tolerance's educational kits and subscriptions to its magazine are FREE to classroom teachers, school librarians, school counselors, school administrators, professors of education, leaders of homeschool networks, youth directors at houses of worship and employees of youth-serving nonprofit organizations. For more resources and free materials, visit their website at <http://www.tolerance.org/teaching-kits>

### · **New Jersey: A Statewide View of Diversity**

As the most diverse state in the country, New Jersey faces unique opportunities and challenges to create inclusive communities, a productive workforce, a responsive educational system, bias-free institutions and a respectful society. To measure New Jersey residents' attitudes and behaviors relative to diversity issues in our highly diverse state, the Presenting Partners have commissioned the Bloustein Center for Survey Research to implement a statewide telephone survey of New Jersey residents. The survey results and the opportunity for discussion, evaluation and recommendations for future steps were presented September 20, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick. Click links for the [Survey Report](#), [Executive Summary](#), [video highlights](#) and [Conference Report](#).

Character\_education\_network mailing list

[Character\\_education\\_network@email.rutgers.edu](mailto: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.

**Part 1.2**