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**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2003 7:39 PM  
**Subject:** Character\_Education\_Network Online

**CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List**  
**Vol. #2 (December 2003)**

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 New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE), **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 NJ Center for Character Education website ([www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net)) 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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## **CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS**

### **New Jersey Schools Receive National Recognition for Character Education Initiatives**

Eight New Jersey schools have been recognized for their outstanding character education programs by the Character Education Partnership (CEP), the premier organization in the country advocating for character education, and a national partner of the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE).

The National Schools of Character® is an annual awards program recognizing K-12 schools and districts demonstrating outstanding character education initiatives that yield positive results in student behavior, school climate and academic performance. Although winners may differ in method, content, and scope, all emphasize core ethical values such as honesty, respect, responsibility and caring. Selected schools and districts receive a cash award of \$2,000, national recognition, and a featured position in CEP's National Schools of Character publication.

This national recognition of New Jersey schools is a demonstration of the effectiveness of the sustained emphasis New Jersey has brought to character education over the past eight years, and particularly over the last four years of the New Jersey Character Education Partnership state aid funding.

New Jersey 2003 CEP Winners and their program titles are listed below. Descriptions of these award-winning programs will appear next week on the NJCCE website at: [www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net).

#### **2003 National Schools of Character® Winner:**

Montclair Kimberley Academy - Leading the "Good Life"

#### **Promising Practices in Character Education**

CEP awards Promising Practices citations to schools and districts for implementing a unique and specific character education practice. From service learning to sportsmanship to academic achievement and more, Promising Practices represent a wide variety of innovative and effective strategies in character-based education.

Promising Practices recipients become models for other schools and districts interested in effective character education.

Only 38 schools in the country received the "Promising Practices" citation this year, and NJCCE is proud to note that seven of these were New Jersey schools (nearly 25% of all the 2003 Promising Practices awards).

**Promising Practices Citation Recipients:**

Cranford High School, Cranford, NJ (4 awards)

The Community as a Classroom

Diversity: An Interdisciplinary Project That Promotes Tolerance

Technofilles Promote Civic Involvement

The Visible Woman: Female Leadership Through Service

Haskell Elementary School (K-8), Haskell, NJ

Character Virtue Curriculum Initiative

Hunterdon Central Regional High School, Flemington, NJ

Project HOPE

Plainfield Public Schools (5-12), Plainfield, NJ

A District Model for Laws of Life

Rev. Dr. Ercel F. Webb School (K-8), Jersey City, NJ

Social Decision Making/Problem Solving

Village School (K-2), Holmdel, NJ

Bee Proud at Village School

Zane-North Elementary School (K-6), Collingswood, NJ

Secret Pass

These awards reflect well on the leadership and commitment of New Jersey educators who provide the environment and support necessary to encourage high quality character education and social/emotional learning as a critical part in educating New Jersey's young people.

CEP highlights all selected schools and districts in its annual National Schools of Character publication, *"Becoming a School of Character, Practices to Adopt & Adapt: A How-To Guide"* available through CEP. This publication, as well as other resources, can be found by visiting the CEP website at [www.character.org](http://www.character.org).

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**Plainfield Public Schools Join LEA Partnership**

The New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Center for Character Education are pleased to announce the addition of the Plainfield Public Schools as a new collaborating partner in the New Jersey Partnerships in Character Education project. As a Local Education Agency (LEA) Partner, Plainfield will serve as a best practice demonstration site, developing, implementing and evaluating a district-wide character education program.

Plainfield has a substantial history of involvement with social emotional learning and character education programs such as the Social Decision Making/Problem Solving program. As noted above, they received a 2003 Promising Practices citation from the Character Education Partnership for their district model Laws of Life program.

Eloise Bryant Tinley, the Director of Special Projects for the district, will be the Character Education coordinator for Plainfield.

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**LEA Partners' Positive Results Highlighted**

The character education efforts in Paterson and Westwood (both LEA Partners in the New Jersey Partnerships in Character Education project), were the focus of "Building character one class at a time" an article written by

Abigail K. Leichman. Ms. Leichman examines how the programs work, the vital role of parent involvement, and the impact of comprehensive programs on reducing disciplinary referrals, lowering levels of disruption and violence and improving greater communication skills. The article can be viewed online at The Parent Paper Web Site, <http://www.parentpaper.com/page.php?page=1484>.

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### **NJ Regional Character Education Conferences Scheduled**

NJCCE, in collaboration with the Passaic County Superintendent of Schools' Office, the Somerset County Superintendent's Office and the Educational Information and Resource Center, will sponsor three regional character education conferences for public and nonpublic schools emphasizing school reform, curriculum infusion using the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards and programs based on scientific research.

#### **“Character Education 2004 – Building Program Quality: Changing Kid’s Lives”**

May 5, 2004 Northern Regional Character Education Conference  
Passaic County Community College Public Safety Academy  
Passaic County Technology Institute  
Paterson, NJ

May 20, 2004 Central Regional Character Education Conference  
Raritan Valley Community College  
Somerville, NJ

May 21, 2004 Southern Regional Character Education Conference  
Atlantic Cape Community College  
Mays Landing, NJ

Educators are encouraged to present at their regional conference and are encouraged to submit workshop proposals. Programs should represent best practices and research-based character education programs (PreK – 12) that emphasize the following areas:

- How to build a character education program in your district
- Strategies to evaluate your character education program
- Inclusive special education programs that enhance positive school culture
- Sustaining your program
- Service learning – learning real world skills as part of the course of study
- Developing citizens through civic education
- Infusing character education into core curriculum content standards
- Developing a caring community
- Creating a positive school culture
- Peer mediation/mentoring/leadership
- Ethnicity, race and gender
- Youth development strategies
- Social / emotional learning
- Bullying prevention

Conference Workshop Proposal Forms have been distributed to all County Superintendents and are also available from the NJCCE. Workshop Proposal Forms will also be posted on the NJCCE website ([www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net)) as downloadable documents.

For more information about conference details, contact NJCCE at 732.445.3343.

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### **Resources to Note:**

- Community of Caring is currently underway with year three of the *Including More Children in a Community of Caring* project. Through this project, Community of Caring continues to collect resources and strategies that promote social inclusion for children with disabilities. The Community of Caring web site will feature

projects and activities that pilot schools are currently engaged in to promote social inclusion and create friendships in the school setting. *Including More Children in a Community of Caring* is funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD). For further information about this project, contact Penny Keith, Community of Caring Education Coordinator at [pkeith@communityofcaring.org](mailto:pkeith@communityofcaring.org).

- The Anti-Defamation League, in collaboration with *The New York Times* Newspaper in Education Program, has announced the online availability of new curricular materials that address anti-Semitism and bias. The ADL-sponsored *New York Times* Newspaper in Education curriculum guide "Anti-Semitism, Hate, and Bias in the World Today" can be downloaded, from now until April 2004, at no charge on the following Web site: [www.NYTimes.com/learning/teachers/NIE/antisemitism](http://www.NYTimes.com/learning/teachers/NIE/antisemitism).
- Register for the first annual No Name-Calling Week -set for March 1-5, 2004- and join educators from across the nation as they work to end name-calling in their schools. A complete website will be available on January 2, 2004. Teachers can send in names and e-mail addresses to receive information on No Name-Calling Week programs, posters, lesson plans and more at [www.nonamecallingweek.org/templates/nonames.html](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/templates/nonames.html)

### Grants and Funding Opportunities

- "Grant Funds for Teachers" - The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has received a grant from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service to fund "CiviConnections: Constructing the Past, Creating the Future." The new program will provide an opportunity for teacher teams and students in grades 3-12 to link local historical inquiry with community service-learning activities. Thirty-three teams of teachers will be awarded grants of \$7,500 for implementing the program in classrooms and communities all across America. Application deadline: April 30, 2004. <http://www.socialstudies.org/civiconnections>
- American Honda Foundation Grants - The American Honda Foundation makes grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000 to K - 12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and others for programs that benefit youth and scientific education. The Foundation is seeking programs that meet the following characteristics: dreamful (imaginative), scientific, creative, humanistic, youthful, innovative, and forward thinking. Application deadline: February 1, 2004. <http://www.hondacorporate.com/community/index.html?subsection=foundation>

A thought as 2003 comes to a close. . .

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."  
--- Ralph Waldo Emerson