

---

**From:** "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>  
**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 13, 2003 7:05 PM  
**Subject:** Character\_Education\_Network Online

**CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List  
Vol. #1 (October 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. If you know of others who would like to join, they can sign up on the New Jersey Center for Character Education website at [www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net).

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.

### **MEET NJCCE**

Are you planning to attend the Character Education Partnership 10<sup>th</sup> National Forum later this week (October 16-18) in Arlington, VA? If so, look for the New Jersey Center for Character Education notice on the Message Board in the conference registration area. We hope to bring our New Jersey colleagues together there for a chance to meet one another and to share ideas generated at this national conference. We look forward to seeing you there.

NJCCE staff will also be at 149th annual NJEA Convention, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 6 and 7 at the Atlantic City Convention Center, One Ocean Way, Atlantic City, NJ. Visit our booth (# 219 ) to talk with NJCCE representatives about the most recent information on NJ Center for Character Education programs, services and events.

NJCCE staff will also be at the New Jersey School Boards Association Annual Workshop – Question and Answer Roundtable on October 23, 9:30am to 11:00 am at the Atlantic City Convention Center. Please stop by to share your ideas and questions about your character education programs, successes and plans for the future. NJCCE will familiarize participants with the resources and assistance available from the Center. For information about registering for the NJSBA Annual Workshop, visit their website at <http://www.njsba.org/workshop/index.htm>, or call 609.695.7600.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- 'Character Education After Hours' in South Jersey  
Have you been looking for an opportunity to meet and share experiences with other educators involved in character education programs? Do you have some program ideas or questions you'd like to ask others about implementing character education in your school or community? Would you like to find new resources and get more involved, but aren't sure how or where to go?

The Character Education Network offers 'Character Education After Hours' - a relaxing time to meet other educators with similar interests in character education, social and emotional learning and current issues in the field. Come enjoy an opportunity to meet your character education colleagues. Pizza and drinks will be served.

When: Monday October 20  
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Where: Malberg Administration Building  
45 Ranoldo Terrace  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Hosted by: Cherry Hill School District

New Jersey Center for Character Education program consultant, Donna Snyder will lead the group and answer questions regarding NJCCE programs and services. For more information, contact: Mona Noyes, district character education coordinator, at 856-429-5600 ext. 217.

If you are interested in hosting a 'Character Education After Hours' for educators in your area, call NJCCE Program Coordinator, Becky Sapora-Day (732.445.3343) to discuss and help arrange a meeting.

- The Institute for Global Ethics will be conducting their ethics training program, "TREC" – Taking Responsibility for Ethical Cultures in Princeton, New Jersey on November 17,18,19. You and your leadership team can explore new, effective ways to get everyone involved in creating a more positive climate in your schools.

For more information, to register for a specific workshop, or to arrange for a custom TREC, please contact the Institute by phone (207-236-6658), email (pmirk@globalethics.org), or standard mail (P.O. Box 563; Camden, ME 04843). Visit the Institute for Global Ethics website at <http://www.globalethics.org/seminars/trec.html/>

#### **HOLD THESE CONFERENCE DATES:**

Spring 2004 will bring three character education conferences to a site near you in New Jersey. NJCCE, in conjunction with cooperating host partners, 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.

May 5, 2004	Northern Regional Character Education Conference Passaic County Community College/ Passaic County Vocational Technology Paterson, NJ
May 20, 2004	Central Regional Character Education Conference Raritan Valley Community College Somerville, NJ
TBD	Southern Regional Character Education Conference

All conference details will be posted on the NJCCE website ([www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net)) as they become available.

#### **NEW RESOURCES:**

- In addition to the web links currently listed on our website, you may want to take time to look at the Character Development Group's website at <http://www.charactereducation.com/>. New this fall is their new online newsletter called "kar' ik ter" featuring CDG news, invaluable resources, grants information, research from the field and education features that may be of interest to colleagues in the character education field. You can sign up for "kar' ik ter" on the CDG website.
- "The Power of Voice in Schools, Bringing Democratic Ideals to Life", by Barb Aust and Wendy Vine is one title featured in this month's Classroom Leadership segment of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) website focusing on Building Classroom Relationships. For the complete article, visit: [http://www.ascd.org/cms/objectlib/ascdframeset/index.cfm?publication=http://www.ascd.org/publications/class\\_lead/200310/aust\\_2.html](http://www.ascd.org/cms/objectlib/ascdframeset/index.cfm?publication=http://www.ascd.org/publications/class_lead/200310/aust_2.html)

- Report of The New Jersey Character Education Commission

What is the vision for the future of character education in New Jersey? On February 27, 2002, Governor James E. McGreevey established the New Jersey Character Education Commission by Executive Order #9 to address the State of New Jersey's compelling interest in helping schools teach students the importance of good character traits such as integrity, fairness, respect and citizenship; create classroom environments that encourage students to respect one another while promoting effective learning; and teach students how to resolve conflicts without resorting to intimidation or violence. The Final Report of the Commission can be found on the New Jersey Character Education Partnership page of the NJ Department of Education website at <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/chared/>

#### **FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR**

There is a wonderful line by Nino Vendome quoted in a recent book by New Jersey educator and author, Naomi Drew:

*When people come together to do the right thing, anything is possible.*

In our world today we are also constantly reminded of the destructive deeds that are possible when people come together to do the wrong thing, as well. The character educators I know are all optimists at heart who have experienced the real power of core ethical values such as respect, caring and responsibility when activated in individual lives and the cultures of their schools.

I hope that the CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK will serve as a resource for you to enrich your capacity to bring good into the world of your life and classroom.

Although **The Network** is not designed to be a two-way communication forum, we would still like to hear from you regarding high quality learning experiences you have had that have helped you deepen your learning, practice and commitment to the character education and social/emotional learning field. If there is a book you have read, a workshop you know is happening that we should post on the website, please let us hear from you by contacting the NJCCE at 732-445-3343. Soon we will have a general email box for suggestions as well.

-- Philip Brown  
Director