



SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CHANGING SCHOOL CULTURE: CHANGING LIVES

Academically, Socially, Emotionally

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Cohen, President
National School Climate Center**

Recognition of 2013 New Jersey Schools of Character

**March 18, 2013
Rider University
Lawrenceville, New Jersey**



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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 7:30-8:15 REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS**
Fine Arts Building, Yvonne Theater Lobby
- 8:15-8:30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
Yvonne Theater
- 8:30-8:45 BUSINESS MEETING**
NJASECD Board of Trustees – Yvonne Theater
- 8:45-9:15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Dr. Jonathan Cohen, President
National School Climate Center
Yvonne Theater
- 9:15-10:15 RECOGNITION PROGRAM**
2013 NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER
Yvonne Theater
- 10:30-11:30 BREAKOUT SESSION 1 - Various Presenters**
Fine Arts Building Classrooms
(See schedule following)
- 11:45-12:30 LUNCH**
PROMISING PRACTICE POSTER SESSION
Bart Ludeke Student Center
- 12:45-1:45 BREAKOUT SESSION 2 – Various Presenters**
North Hall Classrooms
(See schedule following)
- 2:00-3:00 BREAKOUT SESSION 3 – Various Presenters**
North Hall Classrooms
(See schedule following)



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 – 10:30-11:30 AM

FINE ARTS BUILDING

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT BULLYING - THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY TEAM IN DEVELOPING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

Presenters: Pat Wright (NJPSA) and Leisa-Ann Smith (NJ Bar Foundation)

ROOM 301, Fine Arts Building

Experts agree that the key to combatting bullying is changing a school's culture and climate to one that promotes a positive learning environment. Another critical component in addressing bullying effectively is being able to identify normal conflict versus bullying. Learn how the School Safety Team can utilize the NJ Bar Foundation's Framework to develop a systemic approach to improving school climate.

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY: DATA TOOLS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL CLIMATE IMPROVEMENT

Presenters: Gary Vermeire (NJDOE) and Dr. Chris Bruzios, Dr. Marc Weiner, and Tim MacKinnon, Bloustein Center for Survey Research at Rutgers

ROOM 303, Fine Arts Building

This workshop will provide school staff with an orientation to the New Jersey School Climate Survey (NJSCS) that was recently developed by the New Jersey Department of Education, in collaboration with the Bloustein Center for Survey Research, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, to help school staff collect and analyze objective information on school climate and culture. The workshop will provide: 1) An overview of NJSCS materials; 2) The research underpinnings of the NJSCS; 3) An explanation of NJSCS construction; 4) Key points for planning and administering the NJSCS; and 5) Strategies for preparing NJSCS data and reporting results.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT NEW JERSEY'S ANTI-BULLYING BILL OF RIGHTS AND DIVERSE STUDENT GROUPS

Presenters: Dr. Bradford Lerman and Dr. Millicent Kellner, Rutgers Center for Applied Psychology and Dr. Nadia Ansary, Rider University

ROOM 307, Fine Arts Building

This workshop will help participants understand NJ's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, explore a school's legal responsibilities to address HIB motivated by actual or perceived distinguishing characteristics, and reflect on HIB in regard to students with disabilities as well as students from diverse racial, ethnic, and religious groups with a focus on Muslim youth.

TEACHING EMPATHY TO YOUNG CHILDREN AT LAWRENCEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Presenters: Judy Bronston, April Oliver, Rebecca Young, and Kathy Jensen Lawrenceville Elementary School

ROOM 309, Fine Arts Building

Many factors have helped to create our school culture of caring, trust, respect and especially one that reflects on the feelings of others. Hear about the many opportunities for moral action and growth through our CARE Kids, Growing Buds, Manners Magnets, Green Gardening, parent involvement, service learning and AWESOME Assemblies that tie it all together.

BE AN UPSTANDER!

**Presenter: Lynne Azarchi, Executive Director, Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum
ROOM 339, Fine Arts Building**

Don't be a bully, don't be a victim, be an Upstander! If we wag our fingers at kids and adults, we are wasting our time because they aren't really listening. Come learn how an underlying foundation of empathy, self-esteem and empowerment can be used to explain to bullies the permanent pain they cause and how to stop, teach victims that "everyone deserves respect" and inspire bystanders to be upstanders. Plus learn about the only youth-dedicated anti-bullying tolerance museum in the US – The Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum! (www.kidsbridgemuuseum.org)

CHARACTER EDUCATION: WHERE DO WE START?

**Presenters: Dr. Joseph Meloche, Principal and Allison Staffin, Assistant Principal,
Cherry Hill High School West
ROOM 341, Fine Arts Building**

This workshop will identify specific aspects of creating and sustaining a character education program within a comprehensive high school setting. With a large faculty and student body it is often difficult to implement any type of program with buy-in and sustainability. This workshop will outline practical opportunities to integrate character education principles and practices into the school's culture. Using innovation and highlighting the school's greatest assets, this workshop will guide you through applicable and relevant strategies to get staff, students, parents, and community members interested and involved. We will use our own journey as the cornerstone for this presentation and discussion.

DEVELOPING CARING AND CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

**Presenters: Heather Bobrowski, Laura Russomano, and Laura Hoogstrate
Theunis Dey School**

ROOM 373, Fine Arts Building

The overall goal of Theunis Dey Elementary School is to develop citizens who are contributing and responsible members of society. This session will provide a model for integrating your SECD program into your academic, visual and performing arts, and service learning programs. The hallmark of our school has been our "Celebrating the Planet" program which integrates SECD into environmental studies. Students work across grade levels to study environmental issues and use that knowledge to develop and inform "green" service learning and community service projects. This session will show you how to begin working in this area and how to weave SECD into daily and school wide projects.

USING NSOC FEEDBACK FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Presenter: Albert Morales, Jennifer Antenucci, & Laura Gertel, Henry C. Beck Middle School

ROOM 375, Fine Arts Building

Henry S. Beck, a 2011 NJ School of Character, examined CEP Feedback when it did not qualify as a NSOC finalist that year. This lively workshop focuses on how the school's character education team collaborated to have a stronger focus on core values, strengthened student voice through its RAP Advisory Program and enlarged parental and community participation. The collaboration worked: Beck is a 2013 NSOC finalist!



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 - 12:45-1:45 PM

NORTH HALL

BECOMING CERTIFIED AS A SCHOOL CLIMATE LEADER

Presenters: Dr. Jonathan Cohen and Dr. Phil Brown

National School Climate Center

ROOM 126, North Hall

The National School Climate Leadership Program offers a professional development process leading to certification for an individual educator, a school team or a whole school. The process supports and recognizes the efforts of educators to promote and sustain a safe, engaging pro-social learning environment for all students and staff. A special offer to assist in piloting this new certificate for the nation will be described.

YEA/CSE SCHOOL CULTURE AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE

Presenters: Dr. Patricia Heindel, College of Saint Elizabeth and Michelle Roers,

United Way of Northern New Jersey

ROOM 129, North Hall

The School Culture and Climate Initiative is being implemented in northern New Jersey through a partnership between the College of Saint Elizabeth and the Youth Empowerment Alliance of the United Way of Northern New Jersey. The SCCI goals are to provide school districts with the means to improve their culture and climate. The SCCI enables schools to assess perceived school culture and climate; receive expert support and guidance from trained professionals to analyze the results of the assessment; implement a structured process to improve school climate including proven tools and programs; as well as implement a process to develop a set of core values created and shared by the school community.

TIPS ON APPLYING FOR NJ/NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

Presenter: Eileen Dachnowicz, CEP Consultant, NJASECD Board Member

ROOM 130, North Hall

A seasoned NSOC screener and evaluator will take you through the steps of applying for a New Jersey School of Character, the first step in becoming a National School of Character. You will get a quick review of the Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education, the criteria for judging, and many hints for showcasing your school/district to your best advantage.

CHARACTER EDUCATION NETWORKING THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Presenters; Amy Amiet, CE Coordinator/Music Teacher and Cindy Westhead,

Assistant Principal, Lawrence Intermediate School

ROOM 202, North Hall

Join us for an interactive session in hopes of networking character education ideas throughout New Jersey. At this session you will be able to link to the Central Jersey website and discover wonderful ideas that will enhance your character education program. In addition we will invite you to become a part of our Wikispace, Twitter, and Facebook in hopes of sharing your great ideas!

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMMING AND “ABBOR” IMPLEMENTATION

Presenter: Dr. Paula Rodriguez-Rust, Spectrum Diversity LLC

ROOM 205, North Hall

Bullying and bias are serious issues that affect student safety, the educational environment, and school liability. Schools in New Jersey must meet the dual challenge of complying with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (ABBOR) while also protecting student safety using evidence-based recommended practices for addressing bullying. This workshop examines some of the issues and conflicts that face schools in New Jersey, and provides practical solutions for implementation of the ABBOR. The presenter is a professional anti-bullying consultant working with health, social services, educational, and law enforcement organizations, and with a number of school districts, in New Jersey.

LEADING CHANGE THROUGH CHARACTER EDUCATION

Presenter: Dr. Kirk Rickansrud, Principal, Carusi Middle School, Cherry Hill

ROOM 206, North Hall

This presentation will describe the change that occurred, the journey taken, and the best practices developed using the National Character Education Partnership's *Eleven Principles* at John A. Carusi Middle School.

SERVICE LEARNING AND CHARACTER EDUCATION - A HIGH SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE

Presenters: Chris Kelly, Supervisor of Instruction, Tom Callanan, Principal of Hanover Park HS, and John Manning, Principal of Whippany Park HS.

ROOM 207, North Hall

This presentation will explore the manner in which the district works to utilize the critical link between service learning and character education in order to improve the climate and culture of our schools. Our presenters will discuss the ways in which the district has trained its staff and educated its stakeholders in the areas of service learning and character education in order to facilitate and encourage student / teacher led service projects that support our character education program.

MINUTE TO WIN IT – A CELEBRATION OF GOOD CITIZENS

Presenters: Kristen Martello, Assistant Principal and Jim Winkelspecht, PE/Health Teacher, Berlin Community School

ROOM 208, North Hall

The workshop presented by BCS will explain the process of recognizing students for positive behaviors and celebrating their promotion of the six pillars of character at age appropriate Minute To Win It assemblies. The program is utilized at BCS for all students in grades K to 8. Attendees will learn how BCS incorporates daily recognition of students, as well as how we develop and implement the assemblies.

NJASECD 2013 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Nadia Ansary & Carol Lawrence, Co-Chairs

Dr. Phil Brown ★ Pat Carr ★ Leigh Cline

Christine Corrison ★ Eileen Dachnowicz ★ Carolyn Forney

Kathy Jensen ★ Nina Kemps (NJSOC Chair)

Dr. William Trusheim (Program Design)



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS BREAKOUT SESSION 3 - 2:00-3:00 PM NORTH HALL

THE ROLE OF SCHOOL LEADERS IN DEVELOPING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

Presenter: Dr. William H. Trusheim, President of NJASECD and former Superintendent and Principal, Pequannock School District
ROOM 126, North Hall

School climate is important in every school. School Leaders who attend to school climate and culture have a much better chance of making positive change in this delicate area. This workshop will help school leaders understand culture and climate and learn about some strategies that can be used to promote a positive school climate.

UNITED WAY'S YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE

Presenter: Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey & Dr. Patricia Heindel, College of Saint Elizabeth
ROOM 129, North Hall

United Way of Northern New Jersey's EDUCATION work is focused on ensuring youth are able to achieve academically, tackle issues and problems with responsibility and integrity, and succeed in the 21st century workplace. The Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA) works with schools to create safe, well-managed, caring, participatory places where children can thrive emotionally, physically, and academically, and where students, the family, and the wider community are engaged in the schools. YEA offers a multi-tiered effort ranging from direct programming (I CAN mentoring, Youth Summit/YEA Challenge) to long term systemic support for schools as they address their culture and climate (YEA/CSE Culture and Climate Initiative).

CULTURE CONVERSATIONS: GETTING STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND PARENTS INVOLVED

Presenter: Dr. Abby Attias, Vice President, Princeton Center for Leadership Training
ROOM 130, North Hall

One defining feature of a powerful school culture is that students, faculty, and parents know that their ideas are valued and their feedback taken into account by school leadership. As research supports, both students and adults thrive – and students achieve – in such a culture. In this session, participants will: (a) explore a variety of strategies and tools for creating and maintaining space for the voices of students, faculty, and parents; and (b) consider the ways that these culture conversations help to effectively address students' social, emotional, and academic needs. Participants will also learn about Campaign Connect, a growing New Jersey movement focused on developing a dynamic forum in which schools can collaborate on the culture journey and be recognized for their efforts to improve.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: POWER UP!

Presenter: Mindy Milavski, Principal, Lawrence Middle School
ROOM 202, North Hall

At the Lawrence Middle School we meet our students in their digital world and apply our expectations of good Digital Citizenship to their electronic lifestyle. How do you incorporate Character Education in a 21st Century world? How do you challenge students to be

leaders in their Digital Global Society? How do you take advantage of Web 2.0 tools for Character Education and at the same time teach students the impact of Public and Permanent? Listen to one middle school describe how we tackled our 1:1 laptop initiative, incorporated Character Education, and made the most of both our new and old technology.

STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT!

Presenters: Brett Thorp, Principal and Jessica Kovacs, Keri Harris, Carla McIlmail, Marilyn Patterson, Jeff Galda, Patti Pawling, and Teadora Lewis, staff members.

Gibbsboro School

ROOM 205, North Hall

Where do we start? Gibbsboro School had this question two years ago and “started off on the right foot” by having a team visit local National School of Character, Rosa International Middle School in Cherry Hill, NJ. With much enthusiasm and motivation, the team returned knowing if we were to be successful we needed all stakeholders on board. If you’re wondering where to begin or how to take your program to the next level, come learn about the steps Gibbsboro School took to make character more than something we do to something we are.

CHARACTER NEEDED: THE COMMON CORE IS HERE!

Presenter: Nina Kemps, NJASECD Vice President and NJSOC Coordinator

ROOM 206, North Hall

Come join a professional conversation about why a character initiative is so important to students and teachers as we deal with the Common Core State Standards. What core values are implied within the standards? How should we address academic integrity and digital citizenship? The importance of the integration of English Language Arts Standards across the curriculum will be explored. Come share strategies that work and learn additional ones from others.

SERVICE LEARNING: DESIGNING AND BUILDING AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Presenter: Tom Gaglione, Art Teacher/CE Coordinator, Hanover Park H.S.

ROOM 207, North Hall

Our school applied for and received a grant from the federal Learn and Serve America program to put in an outdoor classroom on our beautiful California-style campus. The project incorporated student involvement right from the beginning and continues to serve as a platform for a variety of service learning projects. Through these projects, students take pride in enhancing the outdoor learning setting for the entire school community to enjoy.

CHANGING SCHOOL CULTURE TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES

Presenters: Dr. Neil Burti, Principal, Diane O’Brien, and Dawn Lacy, Staff members, Cherry Hill Alternative H.S.

ROOM 208, North Hall

In the world of high stakes testing, pervasive social media, and rapid societal change, more schools are encountering higher numbers of disengaged, disenfranchised students. Find out how the Cherry Hill Alternative High School not only reached the most challenging students but became a NJ State School of Character. You will hear about our journey to redefine the school’s vision and create a school culture focused on both moral and performance character. Learn how our comprehensive character development program incorporated key components such as social skills, life skills, service learning, and career exploration – all in the spirit of helping students transition successfully into adulthood and active citizenry.