



## BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

February 2010

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the February 2010 edition of the Building Inclusive Schools Monthly Email Update! The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to provide this service to educators across the Commonwealth to support your efforts to fostering respectful and affirming school communities. As always, feel free to contact our office by phone at (804) 515-7950 or by emailing Ali Thompson, Director of Education & Training at [athompson@inclusiveva.org](mailto:athompson@inclusiveva.org) or David LeFebvre, Program & Event Coordinator, at [dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org](mailto:dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org) if we can provide more direct support of your work.

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### **--- RESOURCES LIST ---**

This month's Resources List focuses on bullying. Check out page 3 for information on "ready-made" diversity programs for schools, potential funding sources, curriculum ideas, and more. Please pass along resources you know for future emails!

### **--- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: CONNECTIONS INSTITUTE ---**

The Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute (formerly Metrotown) is the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' signature Emerging Leaders Institute program. Since 1993, this peer leadership experience has prepared high school student delegates to make decisions based on an appreciation of the vast diversity within Virginia. Connections is a yearlong process of challenge, growth, and impact for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The experience begins with a residential program during the summer that allows student delegates to break barriers, deal with biased behavior, and develop an action plan to reduce prejudice in their schools. Connections will take place in August 2010, and the cost for a team of up to five students is \$1,750. Registration information will be mailed to high school principals this month. For more information about registering your school, volunteering to serve on the Connections staff, or sponsoring a team of students to attend the program, simply reply to this email.

### **--- ACTION PLAN PROFILE: TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL ---**

Each month, we seek to profile activities taking place in Virginia high schools that advance Inclusive Communities' work. As you hold programs in your school throughout the year, please share information about them to be included in future monthly email updates! This month, we profile the students from Trinity Episcopal in Richmond who sent a delegation of students to the Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute this past summer. As part of the Connections program, the students developed an action plan to form a school club to promote diversity and inclusion. In the fall, Trinity students held a roundtable discussion about different religious perspectives. Their discussion was driven by an article that all the students read and took place during their lunch period. This same team from Connections formed a student organization called UNITE, which meets on a weekly basis. In January, UNITE students talked about their Connections experience at an all-school assembly, and they recently kicked off a spring film series with a viewing of the movie "Crash."



### --- CURRENT EVENTS: HAITI ---

As we continue to learn about the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti, there are a variety of resources providing lessons and curriculum to talk about this tragedy in the classroom. PBS offers ideas in relation to the article "A Week After the Quake, Haitian Still Looking for Aid" (<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/connect/resources/7548/preview/>). The New York Times supplies "Resources for Teaching and Learning about the Earthquake in Haiti." (<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/13/resources-for-teaching-and-learning-about-the-earthquake-in-haiti/>). UNICEF also gives classroom ideas (<http://youth.unicefusa.org/teachunicef/units-and-lesson-plans/unicef-in-emergencies/haiti-unicef-responds-1.html>).

### --- ABOUT THE VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES ---

In 1935, a team of Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant religious leaders known as the "Tolerance Trio" were invited to bring their message of interfaith understanding to Virginia. Their presentation at Lynchburg College attracted nearly 1,000 people from all over the Commonwealth. Those in attendance were so moved by the program's message that they went back to their local communities and started chapters of what was then known as the Virginia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Today the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities ([www.inclusiveva.org](http://www.inclusiveva.org)) continues the vital work of the former NCCJ Virginia Region. And, using the Christian and Jewish principles that inspired its founding, the organization promotes understanding and respect on all issues of diversity, for all age groups, all across Virginia. Each year, Inclusive Communities leads educational programs, conferences, retreats, and workshops for thousands of youth, educators, community members, non-profit organizations, and corporate and business leaders.

This past January, Inclusive Communities was reminded of its foundation when Lynchburg College participated in its first ever Allies Institute, our signature higher education program. This four day, three night retreat program was a wonderful start to celebrating 75 years!



## SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

*Focus: Bullying • February 2010*

**CURRICULUM** *(Ways to integrate human relations issues into education)*

### **A Bullying Survey**

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/bullying-survey?ttnewsletter=ttnewsgen-010510>

### **Stop Bullying Now!**

<http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/kids/>

**PROGRAMS** *(Initiatives and observances to advance character education)*

### **Random Acts of Kindness Week** – February 15-21, 2010

<http://www.actsofkindness.org>

### **Day of Silence** – April 16, 2010

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

**ARTICLES & RESEARCH** *(News for sharing colleagues or as classroom discussion topics)*

### **10 Ways to Move Beyond Bully-Prevention**

[http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/23\\_03/bull233.shtml](http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/23_03/bull233.shtml)

### **Bullying: Guidelines for Teachers**

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/bullying-guidelines-teachers>

### **Helping A Youth Who Bullies Others**

<http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/faq/helpbullies.asp>

**FUNDING** *(Grant opportunities to recognize individual leadership or support class projects and clubs)*

**Sprint Character Education Grants** – the Sprint Foundation will award grants to school districts and individual schools to fund the purchase of resource materials, supplies, equipment and software that facilitates and encourages character education among K-12 students.

*Up to \$5,000 grants*

Deadline: February 5, 2010

[www.sprint.com/responsibility/education/character](http://www.sprint.com/responsibility/education/character)

**Project Orange Thumb** – is a grant program that provides community garden groups with the tools and materials they need to reach their goals for neighborhood beautification and horticulture education.

*Up to \$1,000 grants*

Deadline: February 19, 2010

[www.fiskars.com/content/garden\\_en\\_us/Garden/ProjectOrangeThumb/grantprogram](http://www.fiskars.com/content/garden_en_us/Garden/ProjectOrangeThumb/grantprogram)

**Get Ur Good On Grants** – funding to support projects addressing critical community needs such as poverty, education, and environmental sustainability.

*\$500 grants*

Deadline: February 22, 2010

[www.YSA.org/grants](http://www.YSA.org/grants)