



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

June 2009

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the June 2009 edition of the Building Inclusive Schools Monthly Email Update! The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to provide this service to educators to support your efforts at fostering respectful and affirming school communities. Archives of the email updates from previous months are available at <http://www.inclusiveva.org/resources.php>. As always, feel free to contact our office by phone at (804) 515-7950 or by emailing Jonathan Zur, Chief Operating Officer, at jzur@inclusiveva.org if we can provide more direct support of your work.

***NOTE: THIS WILL BE THE LAST EMAIL OF THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR. MONTHLY UPDATES WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER 2009. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

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--- INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES ---

This July, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities will welcome two new employees to our team! **Alicia R. Thompson** will join us on July 1 as Director of Education and Training. Ali was most recently a Dean at the Steward School and has experience as a teacher and administrator for both St. Catherine's School and the Richmond Public Schools. She serves as President of the Virginia Diversity Network, an association of educators at independent schools in Virginia. **David E. LeFebvre** will be our Program and Event Coordinator starting on July 16. As a high school student, he was a participant in programming offered by VCIC's sister office in Omaha, Nebraska, and David has since volunteered for several of that organization's high school retreat programs. He also served as a college intern at Nonprofit Connect, the Ronald McDonald House, and the National 4-H Council. We look forward to having Ali and David join our organization and invite you to send welcome messages to them at their new email addresses: athompson@inclusiveva.org and dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org.

--- RESOURCES LIST: CLASS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS ---

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



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--- ACTION PLAN PROFILE: WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL ---

Each month, we seek to profile activities taking place in Virginia high schools that promote inclusion, challenge assumptions, and advance understanding. 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 Warwick High School in Newport News who attended Project Inclusion in April. While attending Project Inclusion, the students from Warwick developed a program to address stereotyping in their school. They plan to create a television program called “Word on the Street” that demonstrates the consequences of stereotypes to be shown in all classrooms at the school. Students who attended previous sessions of Project Inclusion will be invited to participate in the planning and implementation of the program. Thanks to the Riverside Health System Foundation, this action plan will be financially supported by the McKinley Price Action Grant program. The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities congratulates the Project Inclusion graduates from Warwick High School for coming up with such a great plan!

--- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: PROJECT INCLUSION ---

Since 2001, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has held the Project Inclusion program for high schools across the Commonwealth. Designed for students and educators from a single school or district, Project Inclusion brings together up to 60 students and 15 educators for an intensive four-day, three-night residential experience. While at Project Inclusion, participants explore issues of diversity and prejudice, gain insight into their own lives and values, and develop action plans to share their learning with their sending school(s). Administrators have credited Project Inclusion with improving school climates, reducing incidents of bullying and violence, and building stronger connections between students and educators. During the 2008-2009 school year, Project Inclusion sessions were offered to schools in Hampton, Lynchburg, Newport News, and the metro-Richmond area. For more information about this program and how to bring it to your school, contact the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities today!

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

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (<http://www.inclusiveva.org>) is the only organization that conducts programs that promote understanding and respect on ALL issues of diversity, for ALL age groups, ALL across Virginia. Each year, Inclusive Communities conducts educational programs, conferences, retreats, and workshops for thousands of youth, educators, community members, non-profit organizations, and corporate and business leaders. These events and experiences teach participants not simply to notice differences, but also to respect variety in race, religion, and culture. We deliver our message in schools, houses of worship, the community, and in the workplace. Originally founded as the Virginia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has concluded our association with NCCJ and has joined with many of our fellow offices across the country to form the National Federation for Just Communities (<http://www.federationforjustcommunities.org>), a new movement fighting prejudice in all its forms.



SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

Focus: Class/Socio-Economic Status • June 2009

CURRICULUM *[Ways to integrate human relations issues into education]*

Crossing Socioeconomic Boundaries

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=875&pa=7>

GNP Simulation Using Foods in the Americas

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/3620>

Over-the-Counter Culture: Learning About How Consumerism Reflects Class

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20050531tuesday.html>

Ten Chairs of Inequality: A Classroom Simulation on the Distribution of Wealth

http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/12_03/wealth.shtml

PROGRAMS *[Initiatives and observances to advance character education]*

National Learn and Serve Challenge – October 5-11, 2009

<http://www.learnandservechallenge.org>

Ally Week – October 19-23, 2009

<http://www.allyweek.org>

Mix-It-Up Day – November 10, 2009

<http://www.tolerance.org/teens>

ARTICLES & RESEARCH *[News for sharing with colleagues or as classroom discussion topics]*

Making Numbers Count: How Social Justice Math Can Help Students Transform People, Politics, and Communities.

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/features.jsp?p=0&is=42&ar=895>

The Question of Class

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/features.jsp?cid=777>

FUNDING *[Grant opportunities to recognize individual leadership or support class projects and clubs]*

Pay It Forward Mini-Grants – fund one-time-only service-oriented projects to benefit a school or community. Projects must contain a “pay it forward” focus.

Up to \$500 Grants

<http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/educators/mini-grant.html>

Richard Riley Award – provides recognition to a school that is a center of community and demonstrates innovative design ideas while promoting student achievement

\$10,000 Prize

Deadline: July 1, 2009

<http://www.richardrileyaward.org/en/Closed.html>