



## BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

*September 2007*

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the September 2007 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 at fostering respectful and affirming school communities. As always, feel free to contact our office by phone at (804) 515-7950 or by emailing Jonathan Zur, Vice President for Program Operations, at [jjur@inclusiveva.org](mailto:jjur@inclusiveva.org) if we can provide more direct support of your work.

### **IN THIS EMAIL:**

- (1) Introducing the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities**
- (2) Resources List: Conflict Resolution**
- (3) Program Spotlight: Prejudice Awareness Summit**
- (4) 2007-2008 School Year Interfaith Calendar**
- (5) Jepson Leadership Forum & Nexus Forum Speaker Series**

### **--- INTRODUCING THE VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES ---**

You have known our organization by many names over the years. With a lengthy and rich history – drawing on our historic roots as the National Conference of Christians and Jews – we have been destined to change with the times, even as we work to change the times in which we live. As a result of a shift in the national NCCJ, we have concluded our relationship with that organization and have joined with many of our fellow offices across the country to become the cornerstone of a new movement fighting prejudice in all its forms. As a part of this transition, our organization relaunched this summer as the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. Some program names have also changed. Please visit our website at <http://www.inclusiveva.org> to learn about how we are building upon our historic legacy of promoting inclusion, challenging assumptions, and advancing understanding all across Virginia.

### **--- RESOURCES LIST: CONFLICT RESOLUTION ---**

This month's Resources List focuses on conflict resolution. 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!

### **--- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: PREJUDICE AWARENESS SUMMIT ---**

The Prejudice Awareness Summit (PAS) is a one-day program that is designed to bring together over 250 metro-Richmond 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Held in Richmond since 2001, the PAS is an experience of awareness-to-action that provides student middle school teams and educator advisors with valuable knowledge in areas of conflict resolution, prejudice and stereotype reduction, multicultural communication, leadership, and advocacy. Student teams develop achievable, believable, and concrete solutions to the tough challenges that they face at school each day. As part of that process, they identify resources, allies, and timelines to achieve change and to spread the PAS message effectively to their larger middle school population. Registration information has been mailed to Richmond area middle schools, and the deadline for completed packets to be returned is October 1. The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities and Junior League of Richmond co-sponsor the Prejudice Awareness Summit, thanks to the financial sponsorship of the Wachovia Foundation. We are also beginning plans to take the PAS program to other parts of Virginia. For more information, please contact the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities.



**--- 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR INTERFAITH CALENDAR ---**

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to share the attached Interfaith Calendar for the 2007-2008 School Year. This calendar is intended to increase our sensitivity to diverse cultures and traditions and includes observances from select religious, ethnic, and public communities. Since the calendar is not exhaustive, those using this resource at school may wish to add holidays or observances that are observed by students in your classrooms or community that are not included in this listing. Additionally, while we have done our best to verify all dates, it is always advisable to consult with local religious authorities.

**--- JEPSON LEADERSHIP FORUM & NEXUS FORUM SPEAKER SERIES ---**

“Rhetoric and Reality: Race & Gender/Power & Politics” is the theme of the 2007-2008 Jepson Leadership Forum at the University of Richmond. Specific lectures that may be of interest to educators include Juan Williams (author of *Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965*) on Thursday, October 4, 2007; Ronald Takaki (author of *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*) on Wednesday, November 14, 2007; and Howard Zinn (author of *A Peoples History of the United States: 1492-Present*). For more information, visit <http://jepson.richmond.edu/events/forum07/Index.htm>.

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is a co-sponsor of the Nexus Interfaith Dialogue Series, hosted by the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College. The theme for this year’s Nexus Forum is “Finding Passion in Faith.” Visit [http://www.vwc.edu/academics/csrf/programs/2007\\_2008/nexus.php](http://www.vwc.edu/academics/csrf/programs/2007_2008/nexus.php) to learn more about program dates and topics.

## SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

*Focus: Conflict Resolution • September 2007*

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

#### **Be Our Guest: Role-Playing Instances of Conflict and Resolution at a Social Gathering**

[http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20061123thursday.html?searchpv=learning\\_lessons](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20061123thursday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons)

#### **From Chaos to Community**

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?cid=535>

#### **The Sensible Use of the Shared Seas**

<http://www.globaled.org/globalLiteracy/activities/glGlobalChallenges08.html>

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

#### **National Learn & Serve Challenge** – September 17-23, 2007

<http://www.learnandservechallenge.org>

#### **Ally Week** – October 14-20, 2007

<http://www.dayofsilence.org/ally.html>

#### **Mix It Up Day** – November 13, 2007

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

#### **No Name-Calling Week** – January 21-25, 2008

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

#### **Day of Silence** – April 25, 2008

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

#### **Conflict Resolution Programs in Schools**

<http://www.ericdigests.org/1992-5/conflict.htm>

#### **Want to Resolve a Dispute? Try Mediation**

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/178999.pdf>

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

#### **Do Something GameStop Grants** – honors young people weekly who develop new initiatives in their communities

*\$500 Prize*

[http://www.dosomething.org/gamestop\\_grants](http://www.dosomething.org/gamestop_grants)

#### **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, based on the concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others, with the results growing exponentially

Deadline: October 15, 2007

*Up to \$500 Grants*

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