



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

November 2009

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the November 2009 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 or David LeFebvre, Program & Event Coordinator, at 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 ability status. 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: 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 2009-2010 school year, Project Inclusion sessions are being offered to schools in Hampton and Newport News. For more information about this program and how to bring it to your school, contact the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities today!

--- ACTION PLAN PROFILE: E.C. GLASS HIGH 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 EC Glass High School in Lynchburg who sent a delegation of students to Project Inclusion this past spring. Some of the students decided to raise awareness about domestic violence and they connected with the Clothesline Project, a community awareness program. Students were invited to paint shirts in honor of a victim of domestic violence or that listed statistics or quotes related to domestic violence. The t-shirt painting campaign was held during the week of September 21-25. EC Glass High School joined Heritage High School, Liberty University, and Central Virginia Community College students in the Clothesline Project, and their t-shirts were put on display around Lynchburg over the month of October.



--- STUDENT ESSAY, MEDIA, AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION CONTESTS ---

Several national contests have been announced that relate to building inclusive schools! Please consider including your students in the following opportunities:

(1) *First Freedom Student Competition (Deadline: November 28, 2009)*

<http://www.firstfreedom.org/education/students.html>

(2) *Teachers Against Prejudice Essay and Media Contest (Deadline: December 15, 2009)*

<http://www.teachersagainstprejudice.org/contests.html>

(3) *No Name Calling Week Creative Expression Contest (Deadline: February 26, 2010)*

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/57.html>

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

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (<http://www.inclusiveva.org>) conducts programs that promote 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.



SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

Focus: Ability Status • November 2009

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

Able Am I

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2006/12/14/able-am-i>

Feeling Different

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/02/05/feeling-different>

Friends Who Care

http://www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl_friendswhocare_downloads

MEDIA RESOURCES *(Resources for professional development)*

“I’m Tyler”

<http://imtyler.org>

“Including Samuel” – A documentary by Dan Habib

<http://www.includingsamuel.com/home.aspx>

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

Mix It Up Day – November 10, 2009

<http://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up>

Inclusive Schools Week – December 7-11, 2009

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org>

No Name Calling Week – January 25-29, 2010

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

Day of Silence – April 16, 2010

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

Taking the ‘Dis’ Out of Disability

<http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~pstuart/ab2/page1web.html>

Rising to the Challenge

<http://www.tolerance.org/magazine/number-13-spring-1998/rising-challenge>

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

Up to \$500 Grants

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

Youth 2 Youth Grants – funding for youth-led and designed projects that target and benefit other youths
\$500 and \$250 Grants

<http://www.dosomething.org/programs/youth-2-youth-eligibility-guidelines>