



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

November 2010

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the November 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 in 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 how to incorporate diversity issues into service-learning curriculum. Check out pages 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: CUSTOMIZED WORKSHOPS ---

In addition to our well-respected collection of established statewide and local human relations programs including Break the Cycle: Be the Change, Connections, Project Inclusion, and the Prejudice Awareness Summit, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities can work with you to design and customize programs to meet your school's specific needs. Sessions can be designed to address a particular issue (gender, race, sexual orientation, etc.), develop a particular skill (communication, conflict resolution, leadership, teambuilding, etc.), or can broadly address a range of human relations topics. Programs can be designed for a few hours or a few days and can be geared toward age groups ranging from middle school to adults. All customized workshops are developed after the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' experienced human relations professionals meet and plan with key stakeholders from the sponsoring institution. For more information, please contact the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities.

--- ESSAY AND VIDEO CONTEST: FIRST FREEDOM STUDENT COMPETITION ---

The 2010/2011 First Freedom Student Competition is under way. This national essay and video contest offers 9th - 12th grade students an opportunity to compete for \$2,500 awards as they examine the First Amendment and the history and implementation of religious freedom and freedom of conscience in American democracy and the world today. For the complete topic, essay and video guidelines, registration, etc., visit www.firstfreedom.org, and then click on the red First Freedom Student Competition button (center column). Student online registration is required on or before Monday, November 15, 2010, and the postmark deadline for mailing the essay or video with its accompanying entry materials is Saturday, November 27, 2010.



--- PAS EDUCATOR SUMMIT ---

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to invite youth-serving organizations to send employees or volunteers to the 4th annual Educator Summit! Designed for middle school educators who send students to the fall Prejudice Awareness Summit, we are expanding the summit this year to include representatives of non-profit and community organizations. The Educator Summit will take place on FRIDAY, November 19, 2010 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (Parham Campus, 1651 East Parham Road | Richmond, VA 23228). Lunch will be provided. There is no cost to participate. Feel free to contact me David LeFebvre by phone at (804) 515-7950 or by email at dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org if you have questions or would like additional information.

--- 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) 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.



SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

Focus: Service-Learning Resources • November 2010

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

Service-Learning and Prejudice Reduction

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/service-learning-and-prejudice-reduction>

Multicultural Service-Learning: Teacher Planning Sheet

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/multicultural-service-learning-teacher-p>

Addressing Diversity and Global Challenges through Intercultural Service Learning

<http://tools.ysa.org/downloads/modules/InterculturalService-LearningModule.pdf>

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

Mix-It-Up Day – November 9, 2010

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

Inclusive Schools Week – December 6-10, 2010

www.inclusiveschools.org

No Name Calling Week – January 24-28, 2011

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

Random Acts of Kindness Week – February 14-20, 2011

<http://www.actsofkindness.org/kindness-days>

Day of Silence – April 15, 2011

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

Beyond the Canned Food Drive

<http://www.tolerance.org/magazine/number-32-fall-2007/beyond-canned-food-drive>

The Thanksgiving Lesson

http://www.mcowhey.com/the_thanksgiving_lesson_91407.htm

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

State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grants - encourage semester-long projects (following YSA's *Semester of Service* framework) that launch on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (January 17, 2011) and culminate on Global Youth Service Day (April 15-17, 2011).

Up to \$1000 grants

Deadline: November 9

www.YSA.org/goodneighbor

Office Depot Foundation Grants - The Foundation's funding focus includes: Making a Difference in Children's Lives - to support activities that serve, teach and inspire children, youth and families; Building Communities - to support civic organizations and activities that serve the needs of our community; and Disaster Relief - to support disaster relief efforts of recognized national, regional and local agencies, and to provide disaster relief to Office Depot associates who have experienced catastrophic loss.

From \$50 to \$3,000 grants

Deadline: November 15

www.officedepotfoundation.com/funding.asp