



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

December 2010

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the December 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 science curriculum. Check out the attachment 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 2011, 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.

--- ESSAY CONTEST: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAILBLAZERS ---

The Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Library of Virginia have joined forces to co-sponsor a student essay contest in tribute to the state's black leaders. The African American Trailblazers Essay Contest will award prizes of \$500, \$100 and \$50 to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each contest division -- elementary, middle school and high school. Winning entries will be featured in the newspaper's "Race in Richmond: The Next Chapter" project. Deadline for entries is Dec. 17. Please visit this link for more information:

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2010/nov/21/race21-ar-667367/?referer=None&shorturl=http://timesdispatch.com/ar/667367/>



--- ACTION PLAN PROFILE: WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL ---

The Action Plan Profile highlights 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 Woodside High School in Newport News who sent a delegation of students along with the other six Newport News Public Schools to Project Inclusion this past October. As part of the Project Inclusion program, the students planned events for Anti-Bullying Week. During the week of November 15-19, Woodside students highlighted bullying statistics, had peers sign anti-bullying pledges during lunches, and were asked to wear their favorite team jersey or shirt to "Team Up Against Bullying". Students also participated in a scavenger hunt to find interesting facts about bullying behaviors, had mix it up at lunch, and wore black on Friday to "Black Out Bullying".

--- 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: Science Curriculum Resources • December 2010

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

Environmental Racism

http://archives.cbc.ca/for_teachers/782/

Reverse Images

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/reverse-images>

Harvesting Activities

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/harvesting-activities>

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

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*)

Effective Multicultural Curriculum Transformation in "Advanced" Mathematics and "Hard" Sciences

<http://www.diversityweb.org/digest/fw02/mathscience.html>

Critical Issue: Ensuring Equity and Excellence in Science

<http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/content/cntareas/science/sc200.htm>

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

Gulfsouth Youth Action Fund - The Gulfsouth Youth Action Fund is a youth philanthropy and leadership training program that empowers youth in meaningful ways to address the interests and social concerns impacting their peers through supporting youth-led service initiatives that model healthy youth developmental opportunities and foster communities in which young people can live, learn, lead, thrive and grow.

\$500 to \$5,000 grants

Deadline: December 3

www.operationreach.org/downloads/GYAF%20RFP%202010%20FINAL.pdf

Special Olympics Get Into It Grants - Special Olympics is partnering with Youth Service America to offer Get Into It grants that bring together students of all abilities to fight childhood obesity in their schools and communities.

\$500 or \$1,000 grants

Deadline: January 19, 2011

www.YSA.org/getintoit