



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

May 2008

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the May 2008 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 if we can provide more direct support of your work. You may also visit us online at <http://www.inclusiveva.org>.

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--- RESOURCES LIST: PEER LEADERSHIP ---

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

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

Each month, we seek to profile activities taking place in Virginia schools that promote inclusion, challenge assumptions, and advance understanding. As you hold programs in your school, please share information about them to be included in future monthly email updates! This month, we profile Warwick High School in Newport News. Following their participation in the March 2008 session of Project Inclusion sponsored by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, students and educators developed a series of initiatives focused on reducing sexist words and actions. They plan to create stickers with the phrases "Real Women Respect Men" and "Real Men Respect Women" that will be distributed during lunch periods. Students and educators will also have the opportunity to sign a pledge banner that will communicate their commitment to call people by their real names rather than the sexist and hurtful terms that are sometimes used. Funds from the McKinley Price Action Grant program are supporting this project at the school. Inclusive Communities congratulates the Project Inclusion graduates at Warwick High School for their great work!

--- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: PREJUDICE AWARENESS SUMMIT ---

The Prejudice Awareness Summit (PAS) is a one day forum for middle school students currently held in the Richmond area. Founded in 2001 by the local chapter of Jewish Women International, the PAS is today sponsored by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. Last year, nearly 30 middle schools sent teams of 8 students and 1-2 advisors to spend the day exploring prejudice, identifying useful conflict resolution strategies, and developing action plans to take the PAS message back to their sending schools. Community volunteers and high school students facilitated group sessions throughout the day. Plans are well underway for the 2008 Prejudice Awareness Summit, scheduled for Thursday, October 16 at Virginia Commonwealth University. Please save the date!



--- LIMITED SPACE STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2008 CONNECTIONS INSTITUTE ---

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' 2008 Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute (formerly Metrotown) will take place from August 3-7 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Virginia. High schools are invited to sponsor teams of 5 students to attend Connections. While there, students explore prejudice, identity, and diversity in interactive workshops and small discussion groups, and develop action plans to share the Metrotown message with their schools. School registration information has been mailed to high schools across Virginia, and the program brochure is available at <http://www.inclusiveva.org/documents/Connections2008Brochure.pdf>. A limited number of spaces are still available, so please complete and return page 4 of the brochure right away in order for your school to be included! For more information, email jzur@inclusiveva.org.

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

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is a human relations organization that promotes inclusion, challenges assumptions, and advances understanding through dialogue, experiential learning, and education. 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: Peer Leadership • May 2008

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

Building Blocks of a Community

<http://www.learningtogive.org/lessons/unit296/lesson1.html>

Cliques, Friendship Groups, or Boxes

<http://www.pbs.org/inthemix/educators/lessons/schoolviol2/index.html>

Ethics: Cheating and Plagiarism

http://www-tc.pbs.org/inthemix/educators/ethics_guide.pdf

Incorporating Leadership Into My Own Life

<http://www.learningtogive.org/lessons/unit17/lesson11.html>

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

Mix it Up Day – November 13, 2008

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

Inclusive Schools Week – December 1-5, 2008

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/>

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

Best Practices for a Peer Transitions Project: Using a Peer Leadership Approach

<http://www.princetonleadership.org/Best%20Practices%20Manual-FINAL.pdf>

Peer Leadership Program Implementation

<http://www.partnersagainsthate.org/publications/implementation.pdf>

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

Teaching Tolerance Grants - for programs that engage collaboration between educators, researchers, parents/guardians and student groups that aim to equalize students' experience in schools

Up to \$10,000 Grants

Deadline: May 15, 2008

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/grants/schoolgrants.jsp>

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/grant.html>

Plum Youth Grants – provides funds for recently created community action projects, programs, or organizations in the hopes that the grant will help the program grow and succeed for a longer period of time

\$500 Grants

http://www.dosomething.org/plum_youth_grant_application