



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

October 2008

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the October 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, Chief Operating Officer, at jzur@inclusiveva.org if we can provide more direct support of your work.

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--- RESOURCES LIST: SEXUAL ORIENTATION ---

This month's Resources List focuses on sexual orientation. 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!

--- ACTION PLAN PROFILE: "ONE BOOK, ONE CAMPUS" ---

Since 2004, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has partnered with the University of Richmond to conduct the "Allies Institute," a four-day, three-night retreat on diversity and inclusion. In 2005, the on-campus coordinator for Allies developed a companion program called "One Book, One Campus: Dialogues in Social Justice." The program invites all members of the university community (students, staff, faculty, administrators, etc.) to read and discuss a book on a selected social justice topic. In the first three years, the campus read "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?," "Class Matters," and "Taking on the Big Boys." This year's selection is "Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights." Classes have incorporated the text into their curriculum, and programs and events on campus are consistently tied to the initiative. To learn more about "One Book, One Campus," visit <http://chaplaincy.richmond.edu/onebook.htm>.

--- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ---

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to work with schools to offer professional development programs for educators. Aimed at increasing individuals' sensitivity to and awareness of diversity issues, we provide skills and resources for educators to create classrooms and schools free from the distractions created by prejudice, stereotypes, and bigotry. Focus can be placed on a particular area of diversity (race, gender, sexual orientation, etc.) or professional development sessions can broadly consider such areas as the roots and nature of prejudice, bullying and harassment, how to analyze lesson plans, curricula, and school policies to ensure that they are culturally responsive, or identifying strategies to respond to incidents of intolerance and bigotry in schools. For more information on how the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities can work with your school, simply reply to this email.



--- VIRGINIA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION HUMAN RELATIONS AWARDS ---

The Virginia Education Association presents several awards annually through the Leadership Development and Human Relations department. The Fitz Turner Award for Outstanding Contributions in Intergroup Relations honors an individual or organization for outstanding leadership and contributions which have enhanced the respect for human and civil rights in Virginia. The Mary Hatwood Futrell Award is presented for distinguished leadership in education. It honors an educator whose activities have fostered equality of educational opportunities and furthered the achievement of equality and excellence in education. The Fitz Turner Commission Youth Award is presented to a K-12 public school student or student organization whose achievements and activities in school have promoted positive intergroup relations and enhanced the dignity and esteem of others. Nominations for all 3 awards are due on December 17, 2008. For more information about the awards, visit <http://www.veanea.org/classroom/images/ftc-awards-info-2008-09.pdf>. The nomination form is available at <http://www.veanea.org/classroom/images/ftc-nomination-form-2008-09.pdf>.

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

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (<http://www.inclusiveva.org>) 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: Sexual Orientation • October 2008

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

History Match-Up

http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN_ATTACHMENTS/file/295-1.PDF

Stonewall and Beyond: Gay and Lesbian Issues

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/lessons/stonewall/b.html>

Words Really Matter: Examining Language at School

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/edumat/hreduseries/TB3/act1/act1f.htm>

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

National Learn & Serve Challenge – October 6-12, 2008

<http://www.learnandservechallenge.org>

Ally Week – October 13-17, 2008

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

Mix It Up Day – November 13, 2008

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

Inclusive Schools Week – December 1-5, 2008

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org>

No Name-Calling Week – January 26-30, 2009

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

Day of Silence – April 17, 2009

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

Involved, Invisible, Ignored: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents and Their Children in Our Nation's K-12 Schools

http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN_ATTACHMENTS/file/000/001/1104-1.pdf

Speechifying at the Start of the Year

<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/speechifying.pdf>

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

Teaching Tolerance Grant Program – offers grants to K-12 classroom teachers for implementing tolerance and youth activism projects in their schools and communities

Up to \$2,500 Grants

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

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>