



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

November 2007

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the November 2007 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 jzur@inclusiveva.org if we can provide more direct support of your work. You may also visit us online at <http://www.inclusiveva.org>.

IN THIS EMAIL:

- (1) Resources List: Ability Status**
- (2) Action Plan Profile**
- (3) Program Spotlight: "Break the Cycle: Be the Change"**
- (4) GLSEN Student of Color Organizing Conference**
- (5) Virginia Education Association Human Relations Awards**

--- RESOURCES LIST: ABILITY STATUS ---

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, reports, and more. Please also pass along resources you know for use in future emails!

--- ACTION PLAN PROFILE ---

Each month, we seek to profile activities taking place in Virginia high schools that promote inclusion, challenge assumptions, and advance understanding. 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 share an idea called the "Bullying Drill." In the spirit of fire drills and lock-down drills, some schools have instituted bullying drills to assess the climate in their buildings. A team of students are selected to act out incidents of bullying in assigned locations throughout the building, including hallways, classrooms, locker rooms, stairwells, etc. They then work with administrators and educators to identify those areas in which students and adults are most likely and least likely to respond to bullying. Appropriate plans and strategies to address bullying in high-risk locations are subsequently established and follow-up bullying drills are used to measure success.

--- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: "BREAK THE CYCLE: BE THE CHANGE" ---

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities offers its assembly program entitled "Break the Cycle: Be the Change" to schools across Virginia. Examining the concept and consequences of prejudice, "Break the Cycle: Be the Change" is a fast-paced, interactive, 75-minute presentation. Beginning with the roots of prejudice, the program demonstrates clearly its progression from thoughts, to words, to actions. Using humor, role playing, audience participation, and real-life examples and stories, "Break the Cycle: Be the Change" motivates students to consider the ways in which they may have contributed to prejudice and helps them to assume the responsibility to work for change as agents of unity. For more information about this program and how to bring it to your school, contact Inclusive Communities today!



--- GLSEN STUDENT OF COLOR ORGANIZING CONFERENCE ---

GLSEN recently announced that the fifth Students of Color Organizing (SOCO) Conference will be held from January 18-21, 2008, in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference will gather middle and high school students of color from all over the country during the Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend to provide networking and skill-building opportunities to empower young people of color to organize and become engaged in safe schools work. GLSEN will cover all transportation, lodging and meals throughout the entire weekend. Students will be selected based on their community involvement, safe schools work, organizing background and their commitment to social change. Completed applications are due by November 19, 2007. For more information and to obtain an application form, visit <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/2003.html>.

--- 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, 2007. For more information and to obtain nomination forms, visit http://www.veawetech.org/assoc_awards_detail.asp?ContentID=2291.

SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

Focus: Ability Status • November 2007

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

Civil Rights and Americans with Disabilities: Upper Grades Activity

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?p=0&ar=633>

Pizza on Wheels

http://www.unh.edu/residential-life/diversity/aw_article13.pdf

Understanding Learning Differences

http://www.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/fall_2005/fall_lesson_4_2005.asp?cc_section=lesson_4

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

Mix It Up Day – November 13, 2007

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

No Name-Calling Week – January 21-25, 2008

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

Random Acts of Kindness Week – February 11-17, 2008

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

Day of Silence – April 25, 2008

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

A Few Words About People First Language

http://www.tolerance.org/images/teach/magazine/32/people_first.pdf

Assessing Your School Environment for Access to People with Disabilities

http://www.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/fall_2005/fall_2005_lesson5_sb_assessing.asp

Misunderstood Minds: A PBS Special on Learning Differences and Disabilities

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/misunderstoodminds/>

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

Do Something GameStop Grants – honors young people weekly who develop new initiatives in their communities

\$500 Prize

http://www.dosomething.org/gamestop_grants

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>