



## BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

January 2009

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the January 2009 edition of the Building Inclusive Schools Monthly Email Update! The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to provide this service to educators to support your efforts at fostering respectful and affirming school communities. Archives of the email updates from previous months are available at <http://www.inclusiveva.org/resources.php>. As always, feel free to contact our office by phone at (804) 515-7950 or by emailing Jonathan Zur, Chief Operating Officer, at [izur@inclusiveva.org](mailto:izur@inclusiveva.org) if we can provide more direct support of your work.

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### **--- RESOURCES LIST: RACE & ETHNICITY ---**

This month's Resources List focuses on race and ethnicity. 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: "ALL IN!" ---**

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 information about a sample activity that can be used in schools called "ALL IN!" Coordinated by our sister office in Michigan, "ALL IN!" is a week-long student inclusion event that challenges student groups to INvestigate who feels excluded and disrespected in their school, INclude other students in a dialogue about diversity, and INform their faculty, administration, and peers about the issues in their school. The program includes both in-school activities and an online networking opportunity through Facebook to connect with like-minded peers. Learn more about "All In!" and see the program guide at [http://www.miroundtable.org/mrdi/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=32&Itemid=61](http://www.miroundtable.org/mrdi/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=32&Itemid=61).

### **--- 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 25 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. The 2008 PAS was funded by the Wachovia Foundation, and Communities in Schools of Richmond, Hope in the Cities, James River High School, the Junior League of Richmond, and Partnership for the Future partnered with Inclusive Communities to put on the program.



### **--- STUDENT ESSAY, MEDIA, AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION CONTESTS ---**

Several national contests have been announced that relate to building inclusive schools! Please consider including your students in the following opportunities:

- (1) No Name Calling Week Creative Expression Contest (Deadline: February 13, 2009)  
<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/57.html>
- (2) Holocaust Writing Competition for Students (Deadline: February 27, 2009)  
[http://www.uicvp.org/documents/MX-6200N\\_20081106\\_140212.pdf](http://www.uicvp.org/documents/MX-6200N_20081106_140212.pdf)
- (3) Doors to Diplomacy Collaborative Web Project Challenge (Deadline: February 28, 2009)  
<http://globalschoolnet.org/gsndoors/aglance.cfm>

### **--- 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: Race & Ethnicity • January 2009*

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

#### **From Flint, Michigan to Your Front Door: Tracing the Roots of Racism in America**

[http://www.racebridgesforschools.com/laron\\_tracks/laron\\_index.htm](http://www.racebridgesforschools.com/laron_tracks/laron_index.htm)

#### **Just an Environment or Just Environment? Racial Segregation and its Impacts**

[http://www.pbs.org/race/000\\_About/002\\_04-teachers-02.htm](http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-teachers-02.htm)

#### **Lee Yick: Fighting Racism**

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/immigration/lesson-plan/5071.html>

#### **What Does 'Post Racial' Mean, Anyway?**

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=992>

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

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

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

#### **Random Acts of Kindness Week** – February 9-15, 2009

<http://www.actsofkindness.org>

#### **Women's History Month** – March 2009

<http://www.nwhp.org>

#### **Day of Silence** – April 17, 2009

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

#### **Does My Town Have a Racist Past?**

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/features.jsp?p=0&is=42&ar=891>

#### **So You Think You're An Anti-Racist? 6 Critical Paradigm Shifts for Well-Intentioned White Folks**

[http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/resources/paradigmshifts\\_race.html](http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/resources/paradigmshifts_race.html)

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

#### **Mix it Up Grants** – support for “youth-directed programs and projects that address social boundaries in schools or communities”

*\$500 Grants*

<http://www.tolerance.org/teens/grants.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/mini-grant.html>