

Step Up for Character:
The Journal of The Academy
for Character Education at
The Sage Colleges

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THE **ACADEMY** FOR
CHARACTER EDUCATION
AT THE SAGE COLLEGES



Character Education Programs for 2009-2010

**10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ON CHARACTER EDUCATION TO BE HELD ON
NOVEMBER 5, 2009—DON'T MISS OUT!**



**Keynote Speaker
Dr. Thomas Lickona
National Leader in
Character Education**

DR. THOMAS LICKONA

Our keynote presenter is Dr. Thomas Lickona, the author of "Character Matters" and co-author of the award-winning research on Character Education, "A Report to the Nation: Smart and Good High Schools."

His interactive keynote workshop will focus on his recent research regarding performance and moral character. Tom Lickona will describe what "Smart & Good" teachers and schools do to develop not only moral character but also performance character.

Dr. Lickona holds a Ph.D. in psychology from the State University of New York at Albany and has done research on the growth of children's moral reasoning. Dr. Lickona has received Lifetime Achievement Awards in Character Education from the national Character Education Partnership and also from The Academy for Character Education. Dr. Lickona's work has been featured in the *New York Times Magazine*. He has authored a number of books and articles. Dr. Lickona has been featured on Larry King Live, Good Morning America and Focus on the Family.

The 10th Northeast United States Conference on Character Education, co-sponsored by the Capital Region BOCES and HSBC, will be held on the Albany Campus of the Sage Colleges. The conference theme is "Excellence in Behavior and Academic Performance: The Result of a Comprehensive Character Education Plan." As in the past, the conference presented by the Academy for Character Education will be "loaded with take-home ideas for classroom application." At this year's conference, participants will attend an in-depth, "hands-on" workshop presentation by the nation's leading expert on character education and will cover 20 breakout sessions (see page 2). The very special feature will be the interactive workshop with "Mr. Character Ed.," Dr. Thomas Lickona: "Strategies on the Road to Excellence: How Focusing Upon Research Based Performance Character Can Transform Your School." In addition, Dr. Steven Birchak and Mr. Phil Catania are leading dynamic and informative workshops.

This popular conference attracts teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders from throughout the Northeast. The conference is tailored to beginners as well as experts. Presentations include schools designated as New York State and National Schools of Character. The registration fee per participant is \$149 before October 9th and \$169 between October 9th and 27th. BOCES CoSer, special group and student rates may apply.

Contact The Academy regarding registration and lodging.

Visit: sage.edu/centers/charactered.

To register: www.bocesinstructionalresources.org/IRS/events.htm

THE QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE

Dr. John D. Walko, Director

In your "self talk" is the word "excellence" **IN** or **OUT**? Do you welcome the opportunity to follow a pathway leading to excellence? Does your organization or school epitomize excellence? Do your kids "feel good" when told, "You are excellent?"

Excellence does not spring from a vacuum. Excellence grows and is nurtured within a culture. But individual "character grounded" choices fuel this growth. Personal change launches meaningful social and organizational change. Most great changes in the history of the world started with a choice made by one person.

These persons first changed their selves from the inside out as they developed their character. It was their character, initiative, positive energy and competence that inspired others. Their character centered moral authority moved others. They discovered and used their strengths, produced results and people noticed. In this way the culture was drawn to their vision.

At The Academy for Character Education we identify these individuals as "Champions of Character." Champions of Character realize they can't wait for change. They make a choice to make a positive difference. At first they work to become an island of excellence. Then their example becomes contagious. They are recognized as leaders.

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10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

National School of Character: Alta S. Leary Elementary School

Dr. Donna Dunar, Alta S. Leary Elementary School, Pennsylvania

National School of Character: Waterloo Middle School

Karen Moretti, Waterloo Middle School

NYS School of Character: Walnut Street School

Linda Friedman, Walnut Street School

Building a Child's Character by Tapping into Your Own

Dr. Steve Birchak, College of Saint Rose

Developing A Professional Ethical Learning Community

Phil Catania, Principal, National School of Character, Maryland

Developing A Smart and Good School

Phil Catania, Principal, National School of Character, Maryland

Leadership: A View from the Top: Rambo, Poets, and the Child

Dr. Andrew Rose, Nanuet, NY

NYS Guidelines for Social and Emotional Learning

Mark Barth, New York State Department of Education

Broadcasting: Lights, Camera, Service Learning!

Mark Spitzer, Brunswick Central School District

"Sexting"

James A. Murphy III, District Attorney of Saratoga County

Character Education through Children's Literature

Hilary K. Terboss, Maine-Endwell Central School District

Villains, Vices and Virtues: Fairy Tales and Character

Joan Monk, Peter Pan Children's Fund

Think Tank: Music, Theatre and The 7 Habits

Jean Burlingame, Maine-Endwell Central School District

Heroes: Highlighting Educational, Real, Outstanding Stories

Mrs. Vivian Rose, M.S., Nanuet, NY

Bully-Proof Your School: The Magic of Character

Jim Vagias, Educational Productions

Service Learning: Building Character from the Inside Out

Suzanne Myers, Brunswick CSD

Solving Ethical Dilemmas as a School Administrator

Lynn Macan, Superintendent, Cobleskill Richmondville Schools

The Power of Mentoring: Connecting with Children

Kevin Bracht, Walnut Street Elementary

Building a School of Character through Classroom Meetings

Cyndi Herron, Sarah Landers and Jackie Hoffman, Chatham CSD

The Forgotten Aspect of the Approach to Discipline in Schools

Bruce Weiner, School Psychologist and Adjunct Professor

Strategies for Character Development

Dr. John Walko, Academy for Character Education

What Makes a New York State School of Character?

Dr. Philip Fusco, Academy for Character Education

The 7 Keys to Love: Create Sustainable Community Development

Sanford Hinden, Director, Dix Hills Performing Arts Center

Strategies for Addressing Special Needs Kids Through Character

Kathy Barlow, Wildwood School

*Visit our website for the full selection of workshops:
www.sage.edu/centers/charactered*

**SUMMER STUDENT AND FAMILY PROGRAM
CELEBRATES 8TH YEAR**

Elaina Root, Sage Graduate School, Associate Editor



In this photo (left to right): (Top) Jim McGlynn (Pioneer Bank), Sheila Viera (Pioneer Bank), Bill Meissner (THA), Eileen Bagnoli (Pioneer Bank), Dr. Philip Fusco (ACE), Tom Hulihan (THA) (Bottom) Kim Guyatte (ACE), Lisa Reisner(ACE), Natasha Miller (THA)

The Summer Student and Family Summer Program at the Griswold Heights Housing Complex celebrated its 8th year. The Summer Program is organized by the Academy for Character Education and Troy Housing Authority. The Academy's sponsors for the Summer Students and Family Program include Pioneer Bank and Seton Health both of Troy, NY. The program is an academic support program with a character education context that focuses on core character traits. It takes place yearly for four weeks in the month of July. Head teacher, Lisa Reisner, and teacher assistant, Kim Guyatte, assisted by community liaison Natasha Miller, strove to create a learning environment based on caring, responsibility, honesty, respect, good citizenship and empathy, which helps children in grades K-6 understand the value of good character.

The Summer Program includes field trips and guest speakers for the students and evening programs for both parents and students that focus on topics, such as fiscal responsibility and healthy choices. This year, students attended a performance of the ballet *Coppelia* at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and met with a dancer who stressed the importance of the performance character traits of teamwork and perseverance. The students have also visited Hannaford Market to learn how to make healthy choices when shopping, Pioneer Bank to learn about the importance of banking with responsibility and Seton Health to learn what food choices are healthy ones. Bruce Weiner, an associate of The Academy for Character Education and a character magician, presented at the first evening program, dazzling both parents and students with his character-based magic tricks. At the second evening program Seton Health brought in professionals to measure blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol as well as to inform parents what choices are healthy lifestyle choices. At the third evening program, Pioneer Bank focused on accessing financial services at the bank and exploring the feasibility of buying a home for the first time. The final evening program was a celebration where students performed and with parents were recognized for participating in the program.

**Congratulations Dr. Susan Scrimshaw on becoming
The Sage Colleges President !**

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER AWARDS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 1, 2009 APPLICATION DEADLINE

Dr. Philip Fusco, Assistant Director

The Academy for Character Education at the Sage Colleges, in collaboration with the National Character Education Partnership, has been designated as the agency responsible for the New York State Schools of Character awards program and selecting of the New York State Schools of Character (NYSSOC). The NYSSOC program recognizes schools or districts that excel in exemplifying The 11 Principles of Effective Character Education and demonstrate an outstanding character education initiative that yields positive results in student behavior, school climate and academic performance. Applications are due by December 1, 2009. The NYSSOC winner(s) will be announced at the annual **Champions of Character Awards Banquet** to be held at **Franklin Plaza** located in **Troy, NY** on **March 24, 2010**. Awardees may be eligible to advance to the national level competition becoming a national finalist. Applicants not named as a national state winner will also be eligible to be designated by the Academy as a School of Character. More information is available at www.character.org and at The Academy web site.

NOMINATE A CHAMPION!

Nominate students, educators, community or business leaders, schools or organizations for a Champion of Character Award by **January 5, 2010**. Send in the nomination form found on The Academy website: sage.edu/centers/charactered

The Quest for Excellence, continued

Stephen Covey states leadership is not taught. Teachers inspire. Leadership must be learned. Covey advocates the need for teachers to inspire others to find their voice, their intrinsic worth and potential in such a way that it becomes a habit for them to act.

If our youth exercise their freedom of choice to learn the knowledge, skills and character traits associated with leadership they can cause meaningful change. We need to communicate to our kids their worth and potential so that they really believe it and act on their belief (See related article about Ruthie and Felix on page 7).

Our 10th Northeast United States Character Education Conference on November 5 is designed to offer a number of learning experiences to help sharpen your skills, deepen your knowledge and refine your vision as a "Champion of Character." "Hands on Workshops" are plentiful. Emphasis will be on strategies linked to performance character. Whereas moral character strives for ethical behavior, performance character paves the pathway to excellence.

The Academy's mission is to promote character education within the greater community by raising awareness, educating, motivating and facilitating the infusion and development of positive character traits that become lifelong habits. We welcome you to make the choice to join the expanding cadre of Champions of Character who make up our Academy community. We encourage your support for the Academy's mission with your time and your financial resources. In partnership - together - we can make the difference.

2009 CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER AWARD WINNERS

Congressman Michael McNulty; Walnut Street Elementary School, Uniondale; Blue Creek Elementary School, Latham; Macedon Elementary School; Chatham Middle School, Chatham CSD; Pinehurst Elementary, Frontier CSD; Northwood Elementary School, Hilton CSD; Massapequa High School-Ames Campus, Massapequa CSD; Emerson J. Dillon Middle School, Phoenix CSD; Rensselaer Middle School, Rensselaer City SD; Elizabeth Cady Stanton Elementary School, Seneca Falls CSD; Seneca Falls Middle School, Seneca Falls CSD; Stillwater Elementary School, Stillwater CSD; Northern Parkway School, Uniondale CSD; Uniondale High School, Uniondale CSD; Thomas Jefferson Multicultural Magnet School, Utica City SD; Fishkill Plains Elementary School, Wappingers Falls CSD; Kristin P. Gleason, Associate Dean of Campus Life, The Sage Colleges; Stacy Gonzalez, Director of Academic Advising & Career Planning, Russell Sage College; Allison Dragotto, Administrative Assistant, Alumnae Relations, Russell Sage College; Matiullah Sehat, Junior, Sage College of Albany; Raychel Marcil, Social Worker, Cohoes City Schools; Kathleen Berger, Teacher, Blue Creek Elementary School, North Colonie CSD; Karen Taylor, Teaching Assistant, Bell Top Elementary School, East Greenbush CSD, Valerie Dechene, Teacher, Brunswick Middle School; Daniel Weaver, Teacher, Shaker High School, North Colonie SD; Dr. Richard DeMartino, School

Psychologist, Saratoga High School; Kitty Summers, Principal, Harmony Hill Elementary School, Cohoes SD; Karen Urbanski, Principal, Rensselaer Middle School; Capital Region BOCES Student Support Service, Pat Gogol, Joseph Otter and Cathy Welling; Derrick Janzen, Rensselaer Middle School; Joseph DiStefano, Catskill High School; Kathy Rue, Living Resources College Experience at College of St. Rose; Connect-Ability Editorial Board, NYSUT; Stacy Nolan, Harmony Hill Elementary School, Cohoes SD; Gretchen Morton, Brittonkill PTSA, Brunswick SD; Millard Hawk PTA, Central Square; Kevin Buess, Hudson Valley Community College; Pastor John Massey Jr., Redemption Christian Academy; James Zappen, Professor, RPI; Lynn Siebert, Board Member, Capital District YMCA; Castleton Kiwanis; American Red Cross, Northeast New York Chapter; Tom and Dusty Putnam, CEOs, Fenimore Asset Management, Inc., Cobleskill; Deane and Jeffrey Pfeil, Historic Preservation & Community Development, Troy/Saratoga Springs; Pioneer Bank, Troy.

**Celebrate 2010's
award winners!
PLAN TO ATTEND
the "Champions
of Character"
Awards Banquet
on MARCH 24, 2010
at The Franklin Plaza,
in Troy, NY.**
To join the Honorary
Committee or to make a
reservation contact
The Academy

THOUGHTS FROM THE 2009 NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

Linda Friedman, Principal, Walnut Street School



For the past four years, the students, parents, staff and community members have been working to complete Walnut Street School's character education mission. Our educational community has been teaching, modeling and reinforcing the character education pillars of respect, responsibility, friendship and honesty through an integrated literature based curriculum to help students become more caring, ethical and responsible citizens. For 2009, we have been recognized as the New York State School of Character and as one of the national finalists out of a pool of 185 applicants nationwide for the 2009 National Schools of Character Award.

Walnut Street School and the Uniondale Community is a suburban multi-cultural community located on Long Island about seven miles from the Queens border. There are 5 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 1 high school with a total population of approximately 6,400 students speaking 15 different languages. At Walnut Street School, 48% of our 540 students are African American, 51% Hispanic, and 1% Caucasian with 46% of our students receiving free or reduced lunch.

Although many students are at-risk and have many challenges, Walnut Street School is a school community that has high expectations for student learning and achievement and a commitment to servicing the academic, emotional and social needs of every student. We can and do provide differentiated instruction and cooperative learning; we disaggregate data to drive instruction, use teacher action planning and pacing charts to insure alignment with the state assessments and have teachers trained to utilize the latest technology in our classrooms. But the keys to Walnut Street's success are the teachers and staff who are passionate about incorporating Character Education into our daily teaching and learning, the parents who are supportive and active participants in our children's education and the community organizations who are committed to making a difference in the children's lives.

Character Education is not only embedded in Walnut Street's curriculum, it has become a way of life for students inside and out

side of the classroom. As a result of our efforts, Walnut Street School has developed students who have high self-esteem, take risks, are considerate of others, take the initiative, look for leadership opportunities and strive for excellence academically and in everything they do. They are able to demonstrate an understanding of the plights of others and they work as a team to provide financial and emotional support for those in need in our community as well as in other parts of the country and the world.

This year, there was a Walnut Street School family whose home was destroyed in a fire on Thanksgiving morning. They lost everything except the clothes on their back. Students, staff, and parents provided food and clothing and over \$2,000 in donations were raised from the school community and the local merchants to help this family get back on their feet. In addition, a project to benefit the victims of the hurricanes in Haiti was put into action, and truckloads of food, clothing, and other essential items were collected. Over \$8,500 was also raised for Pennies for Patients, which helps children with cancer and other blood-borne diseases. These are just a few of the community service efforts Walnut Street School has undertaken. Uniondale High School students and Hofstra University students volunteer to tutor at-risk and bilingual students who have no one to help them with their homework, 5th grade students read to kindergarten and first graders in the Book Buddies Program and Hofstra University students combine math with physical education in Moving and Shaking with Hofstra weekly workouts. Working with the Mentoring Partnership of Long Island, over 35 staff participate in a school-wide Focusing On Children Uniting with Staff Mentoring Program weekly. The law firm of Certilman, Balin, Adler, and Hyman provide 15 attorneys and staff who have been mentoring Walnut Street students for the past five years. Academically, students at Walnut Street excel as demonstrated on the NYS Assessments with over 90% of our students scoring at levels 3 and 4. The thread that runs through each one of Walnut Street School's programs is a caring one that connects with all children.

FROM FAIRY TALE TO PHILANTHROPY

Joan Monk, Peter Pan Children's Fund

It is critical for teachers to understand the value of using literature to address the importance of character education. Because of the nature of fairy tale characters, such as Peter Pan, they are the perfect vehicle to begin the discussion of character education. An individual can discuss a character in "once upon a time" time and be perfectly safe, or he/she can own the character and identify with it personally. Characters in a fairy tale are easily recognized because of their behavior. For example, the hero can be transformed through the trials and tribulations necessary in the archetypal struggle between good and evil. Seeing classic characters in this light empowers the student to become the hero of their own journey.

Peter Pan and other classic fairy tales provide an important dimension to the study of character education. The story characters of Sir James Barrie's magical play, "Peter Pan or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up," Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, Captain Hook and all the other wonderful characters engage in a classic battle of good versus evil on a very elementary level wherein the theme of virtues and vices is a natural outcome.

In addition to using Peter Pan as part of the formal curriculum Peter Pan can provide the basis for an exciting service learning project. Service learning is an important dimension of any character education program. Service learning uses community service to give students and their teachers an opportunity to make a difference in their own communities while reflecting upon and developing essential character traits.

One service learning strategy is to utilize philanthropy and have students act the role of philanthropist. The word philanthropist generally refers to an individual who has the desire to improve the

welfare of humanity through monetary donations or volunteer service. Children often become involved in philanthropy as a result of a school fundraising activity or parental involvement. A child who has been exposed to charitable giving at a young age will be more likely to expand his or her acts of generosity as an adult. Giving becomes as important as making money.

It is widely-accepted that generous behavior helps develop moral judgment and a better understanding of civic responsibility. Fundraising for a cause can give a child a sense of empowerment to bring about change. The Peter Pan Children's Fund has initiated such an endeavor.

The philanthropic legacy of the story is relatively unknown: before his death, Sir James Barrie gave the Peter Pan story rights and royalties to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London. With every performance or film or book published, GOSH is entitled to a royalty fee. Thanks to the enduring popularity of Peter, Wendy and Tinker Bell, Captain Hook and the ticking crocodile, this hospital continues to benefit from the Peter Pan endowment.

In 1992, the children at the Ormond Street Hospital inspired Julia Hart to give up her birthday presents during the premier of her father's Peter Pan sequel, "Hook." This single gesture brought "The Peter Pan Gift" to America and so began the Peter Pan Children's Fund. The Peter Pan Children's Fund encouraged and supported "Get Hooked on Peter Pan," a curriculum design for elementary and middle school students. This unique education program offers meaningful learning activities to promote awareness of the charitable legacy.

WILDWOOD SCHOOL RECOGNIZED FOR "PROMISING PRACTICES" IN CHARACTER EDUCATION

Kathy Barlow, Wildwood School

This year, the Character Education Partnership (CEP) has honored 4 New York State Schools with awards for "Promising Practices." Winning practices developed creative ways to help students give back to their schools and communities, raise academic expectations and achievement, decrease bullying, increase tolerance and solve conflicts peacefully. Wildwood School in Schenectady, N.Y is one of the 4 New York State Schools to be chosen for this prestigious award.

Wildwood School, a school for children with complex learning disabilities, has an active character education program that pushes students to work to understand character education values, including citizenship, cooperation and responsibility and to incorporate those values into everyday life. Monthly character education themes guide students and staff in creating a character-oriented school. Students are recognized weekly for displaying character education traits such as trustworthiness and respect.

Wildwood was recognized based on its character-centered community service program honoring veterans through the annual Veteran's Day breakfast and parade. Kathy Barlow, the program site coordinator at Wildwood School and an active member of the Sage Academy for Character Education's Leadership Board, said, "Veteran's Day is a natural fit to recognize the service men and women who demonstrate character education values every day." The Veteran's Day breakfast and parade at Wildwood School was the collaborative effort of classroom teams led by music therapist, Beth McLaughlin, special education teacher, Haydee Brito-Prag and behavior specialist, Meghan Heinrich.

REFLECTIONS OF A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Karen Urbanski, Principal, Rensselaer Middle School

Character education has become a process rather than just a program at Rensselaer Middle School. It has grown steadily over the past three years due to a concerted effort on the part of the faculty, students, staff, parents and administration. Character education has become part of our mission in educating the whole child throughout the middle school years.

As I reflect on the process, a number of obstacles had to be addressed. The obstacles ranged from time constraints and scheduling concerns to the more serious issues of content and curriculum. Upon reflection on our character education initiative, the question of "Did we do simply 'feel good' activities or did the activities speak of the types of programs and curriculum choices that support good character development?" was at the forefront.

Additionally, in the early stages, we had to overcome some hesitancy on the part of some faculty members. We needed to examine how character education could be realized through special programs, as well as practices, instruction and curriculum. Teachers feared a loss of teaching time. This concern was heightened by the state testing requirements and our work to improve results, especially in the areas of math and English Language Arts. In time, I believe we struck a balance between special programming and projects to address character development and the actual creation of a learning environment that reflects the character education pillars of respect, fairness, caring, responsibility, citizenship and trustworthiness.

Continued on pg. 6



**FOCUS ON
ADVISORY
BOARD
MEMBER
Kathleen M.
Jimino**

County Executive, Kathleen M. Jimino, has been active as a leader in the Academy's character education initiative since its inception in 2000. She has been a member of the advisory board, a recipient of the Community Leadership in Character Education award and a member of a number of committees including the Champion of Character Awards Banquet committee and the strategic planning committee.

Kathy was educated at Catholic Central High School and Siena College, from where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics. Additionally, she received her Master's degree in Social Policy from SUNY Empire State College.

In 2001, Kathleen Jimino was appointed County Executive. Six months later, the voters of Rensselaer County approved her appointment by electing her by the largest margin ever afforded any Rensselaer County Executive in history! Kathy was reelected in 2005, again leading her party's ticket. Kathy currently is Co-Chair of the Center for Economic Growth's Local Government Council.

Kathy and her husband Vince have two children.

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**Reflections of a School Principal,
continued**

The reticence on the part of the faculty has lessened, while enthusiasm has increased. Their enthusiasm may also have been the result of increased testing results for students in grades 6 – 8 in the areas of math and English Language Arts and a reduction in the percentage of disciplinary referrals. Perhaps it is too early to make any direct connection between character education and our results but I believe it is very promising.

Finally, I must mention our concern regarding students' perceptions of our efforts. As one teacher questioned, "Would our students buy into the whole character education philosophy?" Our answer came in the way of student behavior, attitude and participation. This past June, we took some time to look at what our students have accomplished. Our list was very lengthy and noteworthy. We were able to point to individuals, groups and classes to identify the many positive interactions that they have had in and outside the school community. Service projects, youth summit, kind acts, mentoring and student leadership are just a few of the many examples that we are able to cite.

All worthy efforts face obstacles. As we have found out over the past three years, our obstacles have provided us with opportunities to be thoughtful, patient and creative in bringing character education into the middle school.

**NORTHEAST YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER
SUMMIT ON DECEMBER 3, 2009**

The Youth Summit will now take place in December, so school teams can better implement an action plan for the remainder of the school year. The Summit will be designed by a student planning team from Lansingburgh Jr./Sr. High School. The summit will be held at The Sage Colleges Troy Campus from 8:00am to 2:30 pm.

Last year, two different school teams came together for six months to plan the March 2009 Youth Leadership Summit. The planning team consisted of 7 students from Rensselaer Middle School and 7 students from Rensselaer Technology Education Center advised by Ms. Kristen Murray and Mr. Ron Quartimon. The Rensselaer team said, "By working together as a team we planned the Youth Summit. We did video conferencing with each other, and we also met frequently with the Summit Coordinator. We all felt very responsible to be in charge. We loved to work with people."

This December, 20 school teams will come together to stimulate positive change in their schools. The cost per 10 person team is \$275. Brochures will be sent in early September. For more information please contact Kay Bradley at cbradley9@nycap.rr.com.

FIND YOUR VOICE

"The significant challenges we face can not be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."

Albert Einstein

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step"

Lao-Tsu

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."

Robert Frost

WE APPRECIATE OUR SPONSORS THANK YOU!

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FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP

BOARD MEMBER

Josef Markowski

Josef Markowski has been an active member of the Leadership Board since 2001. He has assisted the Academy in planning, implementing and operating several of the Academy's programs throughout the years, including the Griswold Heights Summer Program, Summer Character Education Workshops and the Annual Character Education Conference. Additionally, Josef Markowski has aided the Academy behind the scenes, especially with his computer talents. Josef is a graduate of the University at Albany, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and History in 1999 and a Master's Degree in Education in 2002. Currently, he works for the State of New York.



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Workshops, strategic planning, tailored presentations, trainings for schools, business & civic organizations are available. Contact The Academy for a free consultation!

THE POWER OF CHOICE

Dr. John D. Walko, Director

Victor Hugo reminds us "There is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has come," but it is individual choices that will bring a dream to fruition. In the adult world it can be kids who lead. At the July Caux, Switzerland Forum for Human Security (and Change) leaders from conflict reddened sections of the planet attended and worked on making a difference. Two stars of the event were "kids" Ruthie Gopin (13 yrs) and Felix Finkbeiner (12 yrs). For them climate change is the central challenge because of its potentially devastating impact on their generation. Their messages were clear: the facts about dangers ahead can't be denied and individuals have both the power and responsibility to act. Ruthie had started "Carbon Free Kids" focused on personal responsibility for reducing carbon footprints. Felix has launched "Trees for Climate Justice" and urges all citizens, young and old, powerful and less so, to "stop talking and start acting." (see K. Marshall, Washington Post 7/27/09).

Some of us can influence the most powerful people, but the majority of us can only influence ourselves. We live in the age of the citizen and through cooperative relationships we can live out our dreams. "Yes we can make a difference." Let us challenge ourselves to lead. In schools, through character centered service learning, let us challenge our students to strive for excellence.

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East Greenbush CSD

Karen Urbanski

Rensselaer CSD

Mary VanVliet

Schodack CSD

Bruce Wiener

Berlin CSD

Bill Wolfanger

Cobleskill-Richmondville CSD

Lora Yanulavich

Cap. Region BOCES

THE **ACADEMY** FOR
CHARACTER EDUCATION
AT THE SAGE COLLEGES



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CONTACT THE ACADEMY FOR
CHARACTER EDUCATION
AT THE SAGE COLLEGES
TO LEARN WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON

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www.sage.edu/centers/charactered

The Academy for Character Education is a voluntary, not for profit organization whose mission is to promote character education within the greater community by raising awareness, educating, motivating, and facilitating the infusion and development of positive character traits that become lifelong habits.



THE ACADEMY CALENDAR 2009-2010

November 5, 2009— 10th Annual Northeast United States Conference on Character Education at Sage College of Albany

December 1, 2009—NYSSOC applications Due

December 3, 2009— 8th Northeast U.S. Youth Character & Leadership Summit at Russell Sage College, Troy, NY

January 5, 2010—Champions of Character Award Nominations due

March 24, 2010— 7th “Champions of Character” Banquet at the Franklin Plaza in Troy, NY

July 6-30, 2010— 9th Summer Program for Troy Urban Students and Families

Share Our Vision! Make a Difference!

Our Mission is to promote character education within the greater community through The Academy for Character Education by raising awareness, educating, motivating, and facilitating the infusion and development of positive character traits that become lifelong habits.

Become a Friend of The Academy for Character Education

To become a Friend of the Academy, or a Contributing Partner please "Step up" today. Take the time to make a contribution or to donate services or time so we can continue our efforts to build responsible behavior, caring relationships, mutual respect, and trust throughout our community.

"It is very heartening to see participants of The Academy's programs enthusiastically take away knowledge, skills and strategies to help kids deal with life's challenges in a caring and responsible way. Business and community leaders need to step up and help build on the outstanding programs of The Academy. When we all work together we can help develop a generation of good kids to lead our world."

-Michelle Borba, Advisory Board, *Parenting Magazine*, International speaker, Author, [Building Moral Intelligence: The 7 Essential Virtues That Teach Kids to do the Right Thing](#), [Don't Give Me That Attitude](#), and [The Big Book of Parenting Solutions: 101 Answers to Your Everyday Challenges and Wildest Worries](#)

Last Name

First Name

Organization

Position

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Email Address

Champions of Character Levels of Support

Friend of The Academy	__ \$25.00	__ \$50.00	__ \$75.00	__ \$100.00	\$ ____ other
Academy Partner	__ \$250.00	__ \$500.00	__ \$1000.00	__ \$5000.00	\$ ____ other
__ I volunteer to donate my time/talent. Please contact me.					

**Your Pledge
Makes A Difference!**

**SAFER SCHOOLS!
STRONGER ACADEMICS!
ROBUST COMMUNITIES!**

Contributions should be sent to:
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