

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic and Law-Related Education

December 2009

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Professional Development

The annual conference of the **New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference** was held on October 27, 2009 at Rutgers, The State University. It was a roaring success. There were more than 280 participants, 25 exhibitors and 28 workshops. Conference evaluation responses were fabulous. Hold **Tuesday, October 26, 2010** for next year's annual NJCSS conference.



Mandee Bellarosa, from Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield, demonstrating a lesson from *Conflict Resolution and U.S. History* at the Oct. 27, 2009 NJCSS Conference.



Brad Siegel, social studies supervisor at Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools, discussing Economic Thinking and Decision-Making at the Oct. 27, 2009 NJCSS Conference.



New Jersey social studies teachers talk with publishers and other exhibitors at the Oct. 27, 2009 Annual NJCSS Conference at Rutgers, the State University.



Dr. William Fernekes, social studies supervisor at Hunterdon Central Regional High School in Flemington, explains the influence of NJ's Senator Clifford Case.

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Project Citizen Workshops for middle and high school teachers will be sponsored by the New Jersey Center for Civic and Law-Related Education and held on **January 13, 2010** at the NJ Law Center in New Brunswick. **Project Citizen** is a project-based, service learning program that involves students in developing citizenship skills by identifying, investigating and developing a public policy solution to a community problem. **Project Citizen** builds language arts, math, science and technology as well as social studies skills. Teachers will receive 5 professional development hours and may order a *free* classroom set of materials. Registration fee: \$30. Deadline: January 6, 2010. [Click](#) for the announcement/registration form.

The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) is jointly sponsoring with Rutgers, The State University and the New Jersey Department of Education an international conference, **Developing Globally Literate Students: 21st Century Skills, Emerging Technology and the United Nations**, on **January 15, 2010**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the New Brunswick Campus of Rutgers University. Registration fee: \$75. Deadline: January 6, 2010. For further information contact Ricky Velez-Negron, CTAUN Registrar, at ricky.velez-negron@pcusa.org.

History with a Religious Twist - Courses at Seton Hall University. The Sister Rose Thering Endowment offers a variety of interesting course about the Holocaust and Jewish, Christian and Muslim religious thinking. For information on courses and costs, contact Marilyn Zirl at marilyn.zirl@shu.edu or 973-761-9006.

NJSSSA Meeting February 4, 2010. The New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association will be meeting on **Thursday, February 4, 2010** at NJPSA in Monroe. The topic of discussion will be "Teaching Controversial Issues." To participate, contact Kristin Fox at KFox@bernardsboe.com or Steve Maher at smaher@chatham-nj.org.

Look for information in the next E-newsletter about regional spring workshops jointly sponsored by NJCSS, NJCLRE and several New Jersey universities in March or April 2010. The workshops will be focused on teaching economics and financial literacy to meet the new state high school graduation requirement.

In addition to the workshops listed above, the New Jersey Center for Civic and Law-Related Education offers [in-service workshops](#) to meet the specific needs of your district.

The January/February newsletter will include information about summer institutes and other summer programs available for New Jersey teachers.

Upcoming Student Events in New Jersey

Winter 2010

The 22nd Annual **New Jersey State *We the People* High School Simulated Legislative Hearings** will take place on **Friday, February 5, 2010** (this date has been changed) at the New Jersey State House in Trenton. Interested teachers are welcome to observe the hearings and may obtain additional information by contacting the New Jersey Center for Civic and Law-Related Education at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu.

Spring 2010

The annual **New Jersey State *We the People* Middle School Simulated Legislative Hearings** will be held at Rutgers University in Piscataway on **Friday, March 26, 2010**. Please contact NJCLRE at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are interested in bringing a class to the event, or if you would like to observe it. [Click](#) for more information on the *We the People* simulated legislative hearings, including middle school hearing questions.

This academic year's **Project Citizen Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation** will be held on **Wednesday, May 26, 2010** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. The New Jersey *Project Citizen* Showcase is open to students in grades 5 – 12 and may involve an after-school club. Please contact us at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are

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interested in bringing a class to this event, or if you would like to observe it. [Click](#) for more information on the *Project Citizen* Portfolio Showcase.

Resources for Teachers

The *Conflict Resolution and United States History* curriculum package for grades 5-12 is an innovative approach to teaching U.S. history. The package includes two printed volumes with 20 case studies of conflicts in American history ranging from the colonial period through the 1990s. Each volume includes a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and power points for each case study as well as a DVD showing middle and high school students engaged in role-playing historical figures using conflict resolution. You only need to order one package per teacher rather than one per student. Additional information on the curriculum package, a [sample lesson](#), and an [order form](#) are available on our website.

International Partnerships for high school students who have participated in *Project Citizen*. Contact Arlene Gardner at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu or 732-445-3413 if you would like to have your class work with students from other nations on international human rights issues that the students jointly identify.

Africa Lessons. Through our 5-year partnership with Senegal via the [Civitas International Program](#), we have developed a number of lessons on African history - from the early African kingdoms of the 7th century to the emerging democracies of the 21st century. These [free lessons, in 8 separate units](#), are available on our website. Most of the units are designed for grades 6-12, while others are more appropriate for high school students.

Law, Literature and Society. [20 online interdisciplinary lessons](#) that integrate literature, history, geography and law for grades 4-12.

Legislators Back to School Program. To have your legislator(s) visit your school, go to [Find Your Legislator](#) on the New Jersey Legislature's website, www.njleg.state.nj.us, for the name and contact information about your state legislators. For more about the Legislators Back to School Program, [click](#) or call 609-292-4661. NJCLRE also offers lessons for you to use with your legislators. We will send you any of the listed lessons if you complete an [online request form](#).

Tours of the New Jersey State House. Want to learn about your state government first-hand? State House tours are available Mondays through Fridays for grades 3-12 (one hour) or grades 2-3 (30 minutes) or take a 15 minute peak (grades K-12) by calling 609-633-2709. Eagleton Institute of Politics' [State House Express Program](#) provides \$300 grants to schools to offset the costs of bringing middle and high school classes to the State House and to enable your students to participate in a "Make a Law" mock legislative session. For more information contact Gloria Minor at gminor@rci.rutgers.edu or at 732-932-9384, ext. 245.

Revolution '67 recounts the black urban rebellions of the 1960s, often relegated to footnotes in U.S. history. Focusing on the six-day outbreak of violence in Newark, New Jersey, **Revolution '67** reveals how the disturbance began as spontaneous revolts against poverty and police brutality and ended as a fateful milestone in America's struggles over race and economic justice. Voices from across the political spectrum recall lessons as hard-earned then as they have been easy to neglect since. Video clips and accompanying curriculum are available [online](#).

Social Studies Issues

Update on the New Jersey Social Studies Standards. On September 16, 2009 the State Board of Education approved the revised 2009 state social studies standards. They can be found, along with the other final standards, at <http://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/2009/final.htm> The vision for the new state standards is to integrate 21st century knowledge and skills by incorporating a strong emphasis on technology integration, interdisciplinary connections and

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the infusion of global perspectives as well as reflecting 21st century themes of global awareness, financial and economic skills, business and entrepreneurial literacy, civic literacy and health literacy.

The social studies standards have been compressed from six to three standards: 6.1 U.S. History: America and the World; 6.2 World History/Global Studies; and 6.3 Active Citizenship in the 21st Century. Seven essential questions frame the content goals and led to the development of four organizing strands in each standard: A. Civics, government and human rights; B. Geography, people and the environment; C. Economics, innovation and technology; and D. History, culture and perspectives. An effort has been made to integrate these four strands within historical periods and current affairs. A chart with basic social studies skills is included. Curriculum application documents and professional development will follow to better enable social studies teachers to meet the new standards. Although school districts will not be required to fully meet these standards until 2012, districts must show evidence of progress towards their implementation starting now.

Online Community for New Jersey Social Studies Teachers. We have set up an online community at <http://njssteachers.ning.com> for New Jersey social studies educators to share materials and ideas, ask questions, voice concerns and participate in discussions with other members of the New Jersey social studies education community. [Click](#) to visit the site, [sign up](#) for an individual account and join the New Jersey Social Studies Teachers Community. Once you have signed up for an individual account, you can join the community by simply clicking a link and filling in four items of information (your name, school or school district, position, and e-mail address). You will have full access to the site's discussion forums, shared event information, and posts by other members. If you choose to, you can personalize your profile much like you would do with any other networking site.

If you have information about professional development, materials, student activities, or issues facing the social studies community, you may want to share it on the network and/or send it by January 15, 2010 for inclusion in the next newsletter.

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Thanks for your support, and please feel free to contact our office with any questions, or for additional information on any of the programs we offer.

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