

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

February 2013

[Professional Development](#) • [Student Events](#) • [Resources for Teachers](#) • [Social Studies Issues](#)

Dear Colleagues,

Social studies is the only content area currently without any dedicated federal funding. We cannot let this continue! A \$30 million competitive grant program in the Fund for the Improvement of Education to allow the dissemination of innovative approaches to civic learning has been proposed in the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services and Education for FY 2014. Send a letter or email to your member of Congress supporting this proposal and also ask for competitive grant funding for history education. To find your new Congressional District go to <http://newjersey.hometownlocator.com/maps/congressional-districts.cfm>. A form letter that you can use is attached.



Arlene Gardner
President, New Jersey Council for the Social Studies
Executive Director, New Jersey Center for Civic Education

NJ Council for the Social Studies

Spring Conference for K-5 Educators. NJCSS and NJSSSA are sponsoring a statewide conference for elementary teachers, supervisors and principals on **March 20, 2013**, "*Literacy and Justice for All: Social Studies and the Common Core for K-5*". The conference will be held at Rutgers University in Piscataway from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Best practices will be showcased to help teachers integrate literacy and social studies. Workshops will feature creative and engaging strategies to make social studies meaningful for all students and to demonstrate how social studies content, including primary sources, can be used to meet common core ELA and math standards. The conference is free but requires a refundable \$20 deposit. Mail your form and refundable deposit by **March 11th** or we will not receive it in time. The Conference registration form is available on the NJCSS website at www.njcss.org. Email Noel Baxter, conference co-chair, at nbaxter@spfk12.org, with any questions.

The **Middle States Council for the Social Studies** conference, "*C-3 in the Middle States*," will be held **March 1-2, 2013** in Dover, DE. To register go to <http://www.mscsonline.org/registration-form.html>.

Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies will be held **April 8-10, 2013** at Sturbridge Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA. To register go to <http://www.masscouncil.org/>

Hold the date: NJCSS Annual Fall Conference **October 23, 2013**.

NJ350: Help leave a legacy for New Jersey teachers and students. 2014 will mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey in 1664. NJCSS has been working with a statewide consortium of history, arts, cultural and educational institutions to develop ideas to celebrate and commemorate this event. Liberty, diversity and innovation have been identified as the three themes for the celebration. A variety of curriculum materials tied to these themes and to the core content standards are being developed and gathered to bring the dynamic stories of New Jersey's first 350 years into the classroom. The educational resources will be made available online and will be demonstrated at workshops, conferences and summer institutes during 2013-2014. If you have an outstanding lesson about New Jersey that you would like to share or if you would be willing to pilot some newly-developed lessons, please contact me at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu

[Back to top](#)

NJSSSA

NJ Social Studies supervisors met on Jan. 18, 2013 to discuss and compare the various evaluation models that schools are using and to talk about student teachers with education professors. For additional information contact Jonathan Miller at jonathan.miller@edison.k12.nj.us

NJSSSA will be having its first meeting to develop **sample social studies lessons for grades 5-8** on Wednesday, **February 27**, from 10 to 2, at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, in Piscataway. Email your current scope and sequence for grades 5-8 and RSVP if you would like to participate at this or future meetings to Arlene Gardner at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu NJSSSA is providing lunch.

The next NJSSSA meeting will be on **May 10, 2013** at NJPSA in Monroe. If you are not yet a member of NJSSSA, go to <http://www.njcss.org/> to join.

Student Events

New Jersey State We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Simulated Legislative Hearings. At this year's annual State *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* High School Competition, held at Rutgers University on February 4, 2013, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North placed first and Montclair High School second, with East Brunswick a close third. Other participating schools included Bayonne High School, Hopewell Valley Central Regional High School, Marlboro High School, J.P. Stevens High School in Edison, and Steinert High School in Hamilton. Students throughout the state prepare for the state competition by completing a semester using the *We the People* text and other resources. Students work in teams to become fully conversant with one of the six units in the text and prepare to testify. Independent studies have reported that students who use the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* materials and participate in simulated legislative hearings outperform other students on political knowledge and philosophy and are more politically tolerant than students who use traditional textbooks and teaching approaches.



First Place West Windsor-Plainsboro North High School at the New Jersey State We the People Competition on February 4, 2013

New Jersey History Day provides students the opportunity to complete authentic research on a topic of their choosing and to present their research in the form of an exhibit, documentary, performance, website or academic paper to a team of professionals. Students with the top research products compete at the national contest in Washington DC. See the recently aired episode about NJ History Day on Classroom Close-Up at <http://www.njea.org/about/classroom-close-up>. The 2013 theme is *Turning Points in History* (<http://www.nhd.org/AnnualTheme.htm>). If you are interested in learning more or would like to be a judge at one or more of the contests, please e-mail njhistoryday@wpunj.edu. Regional Contests: March 3, 2013 at the College of New Jersey; March 9, 2013 at Princeton University; March 23, 2013 at Kean University; State Contest: May 4, 2013 at William Paterson University (all Saturdays except March 3).

[Back to top](#)

The [Fourth Annual First Amendment Cartoon Contest](#) is open to high school, middle school, and elementary school students nationwide. Encourage your students to exercise their creativity by entering the First Amendment Cartoon Contest. Six winners will each receive a \$50 gift card. In addition, up to five entries will receive honorable mentions. Winners and honorable mentions will be announced on Law Day, May 1, 2013, and posted online. Deadline for submissions is **March 15, 2013**. For more information and the contest rules/entry form, go to: www.courtsed.org.

The annual state [Project Citizen Showcase](#) for students in grades 5-12 will be held digitally this year. Digital portfolios are due no later than **May 24, 2013** (and will happily be accepted earlier). Classes of students identify a public policy issue that concerns them, conduct research, identify possible solutions and select and promote the solution that they think best solves the problem. This is authentic, cross-curriculum, project-based learning at its best! Classes prepare a digital presentation (powerpoint, video, website or other digital media) and send it to civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu. [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from the 2011 *Project Citizen Showcase*. Teachers interested in having their class participate in the Digital *Project Citizen Showcase* should contact the New Jersey Center for Civic Education at 848-445-3413 or civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu.

National Economic Challenge. Students apply their economics knowledge and work in teams to compete at State, National Semi-Final, and National Final levels. Teams of students answer rigorous questions on microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics, and current events. Now the EconChallenge is available online. Register at www.econchallenge.org and compete online **March 11-April 3, 2013**. The top state team will be invited to the National Semifinals on April 16, 2013. For any questions, contact Doug Young at dyoung@councilforedoned.org or 212 827-3602.

Euro Challenge is a free program that enables 9th and 10th grade students to explore economic and other challenging issues facing the euro area, propose solutions, and compete against other teams from across the United States. Student teams select and research an issue and present their findings during regionals in March. The top teams then compete in the national finals at the Federal Reserve Bank of NY in April. Winning teams earn monetary awards and a trip to Washington DC. To register visit www.euro-challenge.org/registration.html or contact Brian Scios at 212-421-2700 or bscios@wise-ny.org

The **2013 SPIRIT of the JERSEYS State History Fair** is set for Saturday, **May 11**, at Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville from 11am-5pm, rain or shine. For additional information visit www.njhistoryfair.org or email historyfair@dep.statet.nj.us.

Rho Kappa, the National Social Studies Honor Society for high school students, provides national recognition and opportunities for exploration in the social studies. Sponsored by the National Council for the Social Studies, Rho Kappa is the only national organization that recognizes high school juniors and seniors for excellence in the field of social studies and participation in community service. Consider applying to start a local chapter at your high school. For more information, go to <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org>.

Professional Development

The **Newark Museum**. On Saturday, **Feb. 23, 2013**, from 2 to 4 p.m., the Newark Museum will be presenting a staged reading of a new play "Raising David Walker," to introduce this early 19th century Black abolitionist as part of the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. Connections to the Museum's art collection will also be made and a discussion with the playwright, director, and actors will follow. The performance is suitable for high school students and adults and is free with Museum admission. For additional information about educational resources provided by the Museum, go to <http://www.newarkmuseum.org/TeacherPrograms.html>.

The **Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers** is offering the following professional development workshops: "What Is Africa to Me?" (March 1), "American Families: From the Puritans to the Present" (March 15), "Japanese American Internment: Perspectives on Trans-Pacific Relations, Citizenship, and Labor" (March 12), "The Early Republic 1787-1824: Political, Cultural, and Legal Changes" (April 4), "The New Deal and the Social Safety Net, 1929-Present" (April 17), "American Industrialization: The New Jersey Experience" (April 25). For more information and to register, contact rcha@rci.rutgers.edu or go to: <http://rcha.rutgers.edu/institute-for-high-school-teachers/seminars/2012-2013-seminar-schedule>.

[Back to top](#)

The Center for Civic Education is hosting **Political and Constitutional Theory for Citizens: National Academy for Civics and Government** at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The three-week institute will take place July 6–27, 2013. For additional information go to <http://new.civiced.org/national-academy-for-civics-and-government> or contact John Hale at johncce@aol.com. Registration deadline: **March 4, 2013**.

The **National Endowment for the Humanities** is offering 15 different summer seminars and institutes for teachers ranging from two to five weeks at locations across the country. The principal goal of each seminar is to expand and deepen understanding of the humanities through reading, discussion, writing, and reflection. NEH Summer Scholars are awarded stipends to help cover travel costs, books and other research expenses, and living expenses, based on the length of the NEH Summer Seminar or Institute: \$2,100 (2 weeks), \$2,700 (3 weeks), \$3,300 (4 weeks), \$3,900 (5 weeks), or \$4,500 (6 weeks). Program descriptions and applications are available at <http://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs>. Deadline for all program applications is **March 4, 2013**.

An NEH workshop on “**The Hudson River in the Nineteenth Century and the Modernization of America**” will be held July 7-12 at Ramapo College. The workshop will focus on the Hudson River in the nineteenth century, when the river was a commercial thoroughfare, a tourist destination and the scene of dramatic technological, industrial, and environmental changes. Site visits and trips along the river are complemented by lectures and workshops by scholars. The program is open to K-12 educators, who will receive a \$1200 stipend for attending and earn professional development credits. See <http://nehudson.ramapo.edu> for a full description and link to application instructions and materials. Registration deadline: **March 4, 2013**.

Siena College is offering two one-week NEH workshops, **Heaven on Earth: Shakers, Religious Revival and Social Reform in America**, to be held at Siena College, Albany, New York, July 7-13 and July 14-20, 2013. This workshop will examine the history, culture and legacy of the Shakers. K-12 teachers in the fields of language arts, social studies, art, music, philosophy, and technology are encouraged to apply. Workshop participants will be awarded a \$1,200 stipend towards program costs. Applications are due **March 4**. For full program description and application procedures visit: www.siena.edu/shakerworkshop

Primary Source Program will be running a new NEH Summer Institute for Teachers: *Ottoman Cultures: Society, Politics and Trade in the Turkish Empire, 1299-1922*. Up to three institute spaces are also available for current full-time graduate students who intend to pursue careers in K-12 teaching. Application information and instructions, course details and expectations, a detailed schedule of the institute are available at: <http://resources.primarysource.org/ottomancultures>. For questions contact Sameera Anwar at sameera@primarysource.org or (617) 923-9933 ext. 22. Application deadline: **March 4**.

Educator Academy in the Amazon Rainforest + Machu Picchu. This cross-curricular professional development workshop for K-12 formal and informal educators will be held July 2-11, 2013. The Amazon experience is a real world lens through which to view global issues--climate change, global health, sustainable development, energy, population, water, quality of life and the meaning of service. Land cost is \$1985, plus air. \$1000 scholarship available. Application deadline: **March 8**. See Syllabus at <http://www.amazonworkshops.com/educators--naturalists.html>. Contact christa@amazonworkshops.com or 1-800-431-3634.

The **Supreme Court Summer Institute**, sponsored by Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society, will be held June 13-18 and June 20-25, 2013. The Institute is open to secondary level social studies teachers and supervisors, who will spend six stimulating days on Capitol Hill and inside the Supreme Court learning about the Court, its past and current cases, and how to teach about them from top Supreme Court litigators and educators. For full information and to apply online (under “Registration Info”), go to www.streetlaw.org/scsi_apply. Application deadline: **March 11, 2013**.

New Jersey Alliance for Social-Emotional, and Character Development will recognize New Jersey Schools of Character at their annual conference on **March 18, 2013** at Rider University in Lawrenceville. The theme of the conference is "Changing School Culture: Changing Lives - Academically, Socially, and Emotionally." Attendees will have the opportunity to hear breakout sessions given by NJ schools of character and other experts in the field as well as a "poster session". Register online at www.EIRC.org.

The 1913 Paterson Silk Strike Revisited 100 Year Later on **March 20, 2013** at the Botto House in Haledon, NJ, is a seminar to enable teachers to learn about the historic figures and events that led to the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike and the significance it

[Back to top](#)

has 100 years later, as a means of integrating labor and immigrant studies into the classroom. There will also be a Paterson Bus Tour, which includes a tour of Paterson's historic immigrant and labor sites, on **May 15, 2013**. For additional information call 973-595-7953 or visit www.labormuseum.net

Street Law, Inc. is conducting a **Civics and Civil Rights Institute** in Washington, DC, **July 10–12, 2013**. The professional development institute is open to high school social studies teachers from CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VA. Participants will spend three stimulating days in downtown DC expanding their knowledge and learning new methods for teaching African American students about civil rights and how they can be active, engaged members of their communities. Teachers will participate in a series of interactive workshops with high-caliber instructors and civil rights leaders that thoroughly examine past and current civil rights issues. For additional event information and to apply, visit www.streetlaw.org/CCRI. Application deadline: **April 1, 2013**.

Teach Europe is an annual workshop for teachers hosted by the Center for European Studies at Rutgers University. It had to be postponed due to Hurricane Sandy last fall and has been rescheduled to **Friday, April 5, 2013** (9am-2:30pm). The program is designed for teachers of languages, social studies and history with interests in Europe and provides continuing education credits. There is no fee to attend, but please note that registration will be required. For further information contact european@rci.rutgers.edu or call 732-932-8551.

New Jersey State House Tour Office is offering a free professional development workshop for teachers in grades 3 through 6 on Tuesday, **April 16**, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm, at the New Jersey State House in Trenton. Participants will learn how to transform the complexities of the legislative process into an exciting and meaningful role-playing opportunity in which students “become” legislators. A facilitator will guide a systematic exploration of the legislative website in order to gather information for a mock legislative debate in the classroom. A discussion of inquiry-based learning and open-ended questions will be included to create a framework for healthy student-led debate. Participants will receive 2.5 hours of professional development credit. Space is limited. To register or to ask questions, please call the Tour Office at 609-847-3150.

The **New Jersey Council for the Humanities** is offering a five-day Summer Institute, “From the Textbook to the Polling Booth: Politics in Theory and Practice,” July 21-26, 2013 to be held at Kean University. Using the upcoming New Jersey gubernatorial election as a backdrop, this seminar explores key tenets of democratic thought as expressed in works past and contemporary. Participants will think about ways to use these tenets as launching points to prepare their students for active citizenship. For additional information and an application go to <http://njch.org/programs/program-teacher-program/> Deadline: **May 1, 2013**.

“**Putting the Pieces Together: Integrating Economic and Civics with History, Geography and Common Core**,” a two-day summer institute for middle and high school U.S. history, economics and civics teachers sponsored by the NJ Center for Civic Education and the NJ Council for Economic Education, will be held on **July 23-24, 2013** at Rutgers University. The focus will be on economic and civic choices or decisions and their impact or consequences in history (the Constitution, the Civil War, the rise of big business, the great depression) and today. The program will include lectures and discussions with scholars and practitioners, a simulated legislative hearing, a budget game, historical roleplaying, primary source analysis, and curriculum development. Application deadline is **May 1, 2013**. Go to www.njcss.org or <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> for a registration form.

NJ Association Federal Program Administrators (NJAFPA) is holding its Spring Training Institute at Harrah's Atlantic City, **May 29 & 30, 2013**. The Institute will include Charlotte Danielson as the keynote speaker on May 29th and Tracey Sevens, Chief Academic officer at the NJ Department of Education on May 30th. To register go to <http://www.njeducatorsprofessionaldevelopment.com/>

Resources for Teachers

Quotes from famous African-Americans for Black History Month (with thanks to Mark Schwarz, Rockaway Borough School District):

Dr. Carter G. Woodson: “*We should emphasize not [Black} History, but {Blacks} in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race, hate and religious prejudice.*”

[Back to top](#)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his acceptance speech after winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964: *"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."*

W.E.B. Du Bois, the first Black man to receive a doctorate from Harvard University in 1895 and cofounder of the NAACP: *"The worker must work for the glory of his handiwork, not simply for pay; the thinker must think for truth, not for fame."*

Booker T. Washington, born a slave in 1856, created Tuskegee Institute, delivered a speech to an audience of Republican Party members in 1909: *"In any country, regardless of what its laws say, whenever people act upon the idea that the disadvantage of one man is the good of another, there slavery exists. Wherever, in any country the whole people feel the happiness of all is dependent upon the happiness of the weakest, there freedom exists."*

K-4 sample social studies units. Members of NJSSSA and NJCSS developed a sample social studies scope and sequence and sample social studies units for grades K-4. You may find these useful as you update your social studies program or your classroom lessons. You can find the grade level units for each grade, along with a scope and sequence chart and graphic, at the NJCSS website at <http://www.njcss.org> as well as the NJSSSA Professional Network site at <http://tinyurl.com/NJSSSA-K4>.

NJ DataBank. The Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration has developed a databank of information about New Jersey at njdatbank@newark.rutgers.edu. The data posted on this site comes from recognized organizations with links back to the original source. The NJ DataBank was developed in the belief that data driven policy making is the key to the advancement of people, the quality of community life and the sustainability of our shared environment.

iCivics, the web-based civics program initiated by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for upper elementary and middle school students has two new games: "We The Jury" and "The Drafting Board". "We the Jury" has players serve on a jury and evaluate evidence, persuade their fellow jurors, and reach a verdict in a civil case. "The Drafting Board" has students read background materials, select a position, pick evidence to support their side, anticipate and rebut arguments from the other side, and write a well-polished persuasive essay about civics topics, such as free speech rights of students, the Electoral College, and the role of interest groups in politics. Go to <http://www.icivics.org>

Beyond the Bubble History Assessment. Developed by Stanford University and the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program, this website, <http://beyondthebubble.stanford.edu/>, offers assessments that gauge historical thinking, using Library of Congress documents; provides rubrics for teachers to use; and offers examples of students work.

Policy/Advocacy

The New Jersey Department of Education has initiated a monthly enewsletter for New Jersey educators, **The Bridge**. The inaugural issue in January 2013, was focused on evaluation, and may be found at www.nj.gov/education/bridge/13/01/01. The February newsletter is focused on College and Career Readiness and may be found at www.nj.gov/education/bridge/13/02/02

Teacher Evaluations. For more information about all aspects of educator evaluation in New Jersey see the evaluation page on the NJDOE website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/EE4NJ/> There are also many resources available on the NJDOE website that may be helpful: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/EE4NJ/resources/eval.htm>. Evaluation systems should foster a dialogue about professional practice. As the "experts" in the field, it is in our best interest to engage in the process to help shape that dialogue and "unpack" the frameworks in terms that enhance our profession. Research-based frameworks that identify what we know to be "best practices" are the best protection against the arbitrary winds of politics.

[Back to top](#)

If you have information that you would like to share with other New Jersey social studies teachers and/or supervisors, please send it by the end of the month for the next month's E-newsletter to:

New Jersey Center for Civic Education
Rutgers, The State University
Lucy Stone Hall, B208-216
Piscataway, NJ 08854
(848) 445-3413 • civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu • <http://civiced.rutgers.edu>