

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

February 2014

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

Spring Conference for K-5 Educators. NJCSS and NJSSSA are sponsoring their second statewide conference for elementary teachers, supervisors and principals, **“Student Growth: Reading and Writing through Social Studies,”** on **March 19, 2014.** The conference will be held at Rutgers University in Piscataway from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The conference will feature **Trinka Hakes Noble**, award-winning author and longtime New Jersey resident, as the keynote speaker, as well as choices of workshops that will showcase ideas for integrating 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 standards. There is a \$25 nonrefundable registration fee (\$15 for pre-service teachers). Purchase orders are accepted. Go to <http://www.njcss.org> for the conference registration form and tentative conference program. The registration deadline is **March 12, 2014.**

SAVE THE DATE: The next annual NJCSS Fall Conference will be held on **October 22, 2014.** If you are interested in presenting a workshop at the fall social studies conference, use the **Call for Proposals** form at www.njcss.org to send your proposal by **June 1, 2014.** If you would like to nominate an outstanding social studies teacher for the NJCSS **Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award**, use the Teacher of the Year Award form on the njcss website and send your materials by **September 1, 2014.** The award will be announced at the annual fall conference in October.

American Civic Education Teacher Awards are given annually to three full-time elementary and secondary teachers of civics, government and related fields who have demonstrated exceptional expertise, dynamism and creativity in motivating students to learn about Congress, the Constitution, and public policy. The ACET A program is jointly sponsored by the Center on Congress at Indiana University, the Center for Civic Education, and the National Education Association. The application deadline for 2014 is **April 1st.** Click [here](#) for the application form.

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

The New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association met on January 31, 2014. The meeting included an overview of Bedford, Freeman, and Worth AP US History materials; approval of a new constitution; an update from Beverly Plein at the New Jersey Dept. of Education; an overview of Discovery Education’s Techbook materials; a presentation by Lawrence Charap about the new AP US History exam; an overview of the C3 Framework; and a panel discussion answering questions for new supervisors.

SAVE THE DATE: The spring meeting for supervisors will be held on **May 16, 2014.**

Middle States Council for the Social Studies

The annual Middle States Conference, “C3: A World of Inquiry,” will be held on **February 21-22, 2014** in Falls Church, VA. In addition to speakers and workshops, this year’s conference will include a special trip to Mount Vernon. To register go to <http://www.mscsonline.org/>.

Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies

The Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies will be held **April 7-9, 2014** at Sturbridge Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA. To register go to <http://www.masscouncil.org/>

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Student Events



East Brunswick High School placed first in the 27th annual New Jersey State We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution High School Competition on February 15, 2014

Students from Bayonne High School, East Brunswick High School, Hopewell Valley Regional High School, Marlboro High School, Noor-Ul-Iman School, J.P. Stevens High School in Edison, and West Windsor-Plainsboro High School participated in the 2013-2014 ***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** state competition on February 15, 2014. Marlboro High School placed second. The first place winner, East Brunswick High School, will represent New Jersey at the National competition in Virginia and Washington, D.C., April 27-29, 2014. The competition is the culmination of a semester's study about the institutions of American constitutional democracy and the historic and contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. It is structured as simulated legislative hearings with students testifying as expert witnesses about the history and principles underlying the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. To see a five-minute video go to <http://bcove.me/wcuf1cbi>. *We the People* materials, including ebooks, may be ordered for upper elementary, middle and high school grades by going to <http://store.civiced.org>.

World of 7 Billion Video Contest. Bring technology and creativity into your high school social studies classes by incorporating the World of 7 Billion video contest into your syllabi. Challenge your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between a world population at 7 billion and one of the following: climate change, global poverty, or water sustainability. Students can win up to \$1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is February 21, 2014. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at www.Worldof7Billion.org

ConSource and the Harlan Institute are hosting the second annual ***Virtual Supreme Court Competition***. This year's question is about the scope of the President's recess appointment powers. Teams of high school students research constitutional law, write persuasive appellate briefs, argue against other students through video chats, and try to persuade a panel of attorneys during oral argument. The first stage has student teams writing an appellate brief arguing for one side of a topic due by February 28, 2014. Teams then advance and the top two teams compete virtually in front of a panel of prominent appellate attorneys in May of 2014. The winning team will receive a free trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the ConSource Constitution Day celebration in September 2014. Members of the runner-up team will each receive an iPad. For additional information go to ConSource_Inc@mail.vresp.com.

Discovery Education and the Siemens Foundation are sponsoring the ***Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge***, an environmental sustainability competition for K-12 students. Through project-based learning, students learn about science and conservation while creating solutions that impact their planet. Teams from across the country will be challenged to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities through March 4, 2014. More than \$300,000 in prizes is at stake including an adventure trip to Alaska, scholarships, savings bonds, and school grants. Register at www.wecanchange.com.

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Euro Challenge offers 9th and 10th grade students an opportunity to explore the economic and political issues facing the euro area, propose solutions, and compete against other teams from across the United States. Student teams select from a range of challenging issues, such as the debt crisis in Greece, the challenges to growth in Italy, or the aging population in countries like Germany, and research and present their findings during **regional competitions in March**. The top teams then compete in the national finals at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in April. Winning teams earn monetary awards and a trip to Washington, DC. To register visit www.euro-challenge.org/registration.html, or contact Chelsea Ziobro at 212-421-2700 or cziobro@wise-ny.org for more information.

The **National Economics Challenge** enables high school students to apply their knowledge of economics in a fun, challenging, and rewarding contest. The Adam Smith Division is for students enrolled in advanced placement economics or international baccalaureate programs and the David Ricardo Division is for students enrolled in one semester or less of general economic courses. The top four teams from the state competitions in each division meet in New York City in **May** for the National Economics Challenge Finals. For more information, visit the [National Economics Challenge page](#).

New Jersey History Day is an exciting and comprehensive way to address and integrate English, Science, Technology, Math, Drama, and History. The program gives your students the chance to engage in primary research individually or as a group and to present their findings through papers, projects, performances or media. The 2014 National History Day theme is "Rights and Responsibilities". Two regional competitions will be held in the spring: **March 8** at Princeton and **March 29** at Seton Hall University. The state contest will be Saturday, **May 3, 2014** at William Paterson University. The days typically run from an orientation at 8:15 a.m. to around 4 p.m. **Additional judges are needed**. For further information and to sign up as a judge, go to <http://nj.nhd.org/state.htm> or email NJHISTORYDAY@wpunj.edu.

Project Citizen involves students in understanding public policy and emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government. Students learn how to interact with government agencies to effect change. [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from the 2011 *Project Citizen Showcase*. The class project portfolios from 2012 and 2013 are online at <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/pccportfolio.html>. In recognition of New Jersey's 350th anniversary in 2014, the projects for 2013-14 should focus on statewide rather than local issues. To participate in the annual *Project Citizen Digital Showcase*, register your class by emailing civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu. Class projects for 2013-14 will be accepted until **May 23, 2014**. For additional information about *Project Citizen*, go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/projectcitizen.html>

The **New Jersey State House Tour Office** offers a field trip to the State House--a unique opportunity to bring to life the classroom lessons on state government, state history, and civics. Walking through the same hallways as historic and current leaders, students in kindergarten through high school witness government in motion and learn the essential role each citizen plays in our state. To learn more about the tours and programs available at the New Jersey State House go to http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/kids/tour_ed_brochure.pdf, or call 609-847-3150. The State House Express provides funding (\$300-\$350) to schools to pay for the transportation costs for middle and high school classes to travel to the State House. To take advantage of this program, email gminor@rci.rutgers.edu or call 732-932-9384, x 245.

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 **American Labor Museum** is sponsoring, "Labor & Immigrants in New Jersey," a two-day workshop and tour for teachers, to be held at the Botto House National Landmark in Haledon, New Jersey. On Wednesday, **March 19th**, authors, historians, educators and artists will discuss methods of integrating labor and immigrant studies into the curriculum. On **May 14th**, period-costumed guides will lead the half-day tour of Paterson's historic sites. Teachers will receive eight hours of professional development and teaching materials for grades 4-12. To register visit www.labormuseum.net, email labormuseum@aol.com or call (973) 595-7953.

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Teaching with Primary Sources: Evidence-Based Learning is a statewide project of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education and the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies to help students develop critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making skills. A professional development workshop for teachers (K-12) interested in learning how to develop standards-based classroom activities using primary sources and inquiry-based instructional strategies will be held at Rutgers University in Piscataway on **April 2, 2014**. An advanced workshop for teachers who have participated in prior professional development and would like to be trained to offer professional development in their school districts will be held on **July 10, 2014**. [Click](#) for additional information and the registration forms or go to <http://www.njcss.org> or <http://civiced.rutgers.edu>.

Enrich your knowledge about New Jersey in an all-day symposium with panel discussions for teachers sponsored by the NJEA, NJ350 and NJ City University (NJCU) on Saturday, **April 5th** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Gilligan Student Union Building at New Jersey University in Jersey City. Educators will receive Continuing Education Credits. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.njcu.cc/nj350/>

The College of Saint Elizabeth and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education are sponsoring a special teacher workshop, "**Children of the Holocaust: Remembering the Past and Educating for the Future**," on Thursday, **April 10**, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station. Teachers will have opportunities to learn from survivors and master teachers to help them meet the mandate for Holocaust and genocide education. It is co-sponsored by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. Teachers who register and attend will receive breakfast, lunch, materials, and certificate for 7 professional development hours at no charge. The program is offered free of charge, but since space is limited, preregistration is required. For additional information or to preregister, email holocaustcenter@cse.edu.

A "**Teaching the World**" Forum will be held at Rutgers University's Cook Campus Center on Thursday, **April 24**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free, but space is limited. Contact Kathleen Myles (kathleen.myles@gse.rutgers.edu) to register. The **Rutgers Graduate School of Education** has been working with the Longview Foundation for the past four years on a project to internationalize teacher education in NJ. The Forum will feature award-winning filmmaker Arick Brown and UN Global teaching and Learning project director Bill Yotive, as well as projects underway around the state addressing global and international education, notably in the area of teacher pre-service and continuing education, also will be highlighted.

Colonial Williamsburg has six elementary, two middle and two high school summer programs for teachers in **June and July 2014**. The sessions for elementary teachers will focus on the colonial and the early nation period "on location" in Williamsburg, and nearby Jamestown and Yorktown. The program for middle school teachers will focus on the period from 1607 to the Civil War and will include a visit to historic sites in Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, and Richmond, Virginia. The program for high school teachers will use a thematic approach to American history to debate issues of unity vs. diversity, private wealth vs. commonwealth, law vs. ethics, and freedom vs. equality. The cost is \$2,200; however 18 scholarships are available for teachers from New Jersey for this summer. For additional information visit <http://www.history.org/teach>

A Summer Study **Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers' Program** will be held **July 1-19, 2014**, including a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., and travel to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. Teacher's share of the costs is \$3000. For additional information and the application go to <http://www.hajrtp.org/>. Deadline: **March 14, 2014**.

Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society will sponsor two sessions of the annual **Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers, June 19-24 and June 26-July 1, 2014**. The Institute is open to secondary level social studies teachers and supervisors. It includes 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, as well as hearing the Justices announce the final decisions of the term and attending a private reception at the Court. For full information and to apply online, go to www.streetlaw.org/scsi_apply under the "Registration Info" tab. Application deadline is **March 17, 2014**.

The **Smithsonian Institute** is offering five-day Summer Institutes for Teachers, "Teaching the Humanities through Art," June 23-27 and July 28-August 1, 2014, in Washington, D.C. The institutes will explore the connections among American art, technology and your curricula. Core subject teachers for grades 6-12 may apply as individuals or as part of a team. Priority will be given to social studies and English/language arts teachers. Registration fee: \$200. Applications are due **March 31, 2014**. For more information and the application please visit: <http://americanart.si.edu/education/dev/institutes/> Graduate credits, scholarships, and low-cost housing accommodations are available. For more information, please contact us at AmericanArtInstitutes@si.edu

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NJ350. The New Jersey Center for Civic Education and the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies have received a small grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to identify, develop, pilot and disseminate classroom lesson about New Jersey. If you have an outstanding lesson about New Jersey that you would like to share, or if you would like to pilot some of the lessons being developed, please contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu. A one-day summer institute to help teacher integrate New Jersey into their social studies curriculum, "Put a little New Jersey in your Classroom," will be held on **July 9, 2014** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. Registration deadline May 1, 2014. Go to www.njcass.org or <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> for more information and a registration form.

The NJ Commission on Holocaust Education is leading its annual tour of Holocaust sites in Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland and the Netherlands **July 15-29, 2014**, guided by Maud Dahme, a hidden child during the Holocaust and former member of the NJ State Board of Education. The total cost of the two-week trip including air, hotel, meals, etc. is \$3,500 with a \$2,500 scholarship from the NJEA to offset the cost for participating NJEA members. For an application and additional information go to <http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/programs/07152914trip.pdf>

"Putting the Pieces Together: Integrating Civics and Economics 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, 2014** at Rutgers University. The focus will be on economic and civic choices or decisions and their impact and consequences in history. The program will include lectures and discussions with scholars and practitioners, as well as interactive classroom activities. Application deadline is **May 1, 2014**. Go to www.njcass.org or <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> for a registration form.

Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is offering the following travel programs for teachers for summer 2014: Japan, India/Nepal, Italy, Portugal/Spain, Amalfi Coast, Greece, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Thailand/Laos, Cambodia, China, Russia/Mongolia/China, Turkey, South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe/Botswana, Morocco, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Peru, and the Galapagos Islands. The registration deadline is **June 1**. For additional information go to www.geeo.org or call 1-877-600-0105.

Resources for Teachers

Monday, February 17th is **Presidents' Day** and this week offers a perfect opportunity to teach about the executive branch, to reflect on the achievements and difficulties of many of our past presidents and the extent and limits of executive authority. Many lessons are available online, including:

- <http://www.crf-usa.org/presidents-day/presidents-day.html>
- <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/presidents-day>
- <http://constitutioncenter.org/learn/civic-calendar/presidents-day-weekend>
- <https://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/presidents-day-activities.html>
- <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collection/presidency-united-states>
- <https://www.teachervision.com/presidents-day/teacher-resources/6658.html>
- To commemorate Presidents' Day, Living Voices will be sponsoring a free video and live actor presentation about the American Revolution, "**Our Revolution**," on **Feb. 17th** at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Washington's Headquarters in Morristown. To register go to <http://www.nps.gov/morr/index.htm>.

February is Black History Month—a perfect opportunity to focus on Africans in American history that is often missing from or trivialized in textbooks. Online materials are available at many sites, including:

- The Library of Congress has a vast array of materials about African-American history available online for classroom use <http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>
- The Biography channel has inspiring stories of African-Americans available in video online at <http://www.biography.com/people/groups/black-history>

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- The Center for Civic Education offers five downloadable lessons for grades 6-12 that focus on the civil rights movement and the power of nonviolence at <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/black-history-month>
- The Constitutional Rights Foundation has a series of lessons as well as a listing of prominent African Americans, literature and films by and about African Americans at <http://crf-usa.org/black-history-month/blog>
- Facing History and Ourselves has a Black History Month toolkit at <http://www.facinghistory.org/Black-History-Month-Toolkit>
- Scholastic has a series of articles, images and useful classroom materials at <http://www.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=706>

March is Women’s History Month—more materials are becoming available for classroom use, including:

- The Winter/Spring 2014 journal of the New Jersey and New York, the **Social Science Docket**, offers a series of articles and lessons about New York and New Jersey women, the history of the struggle for women’s rights and famous women—just in time for Women’s History Month! If you are a member of the NJ Council for the Social Studies, your copy is in the mail now!
- The Library of Congress has a website set up with primary sources that can be used to enhanced teaching about women’s history at <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>
- The History Channel has a website with materials to help teach women’s history at <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>
- The Center for Civic Education offers a lesson plan and two activities that challenge students to think critically about the struggle for suffrage and equal rights at <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/womens-history-month>.
- To celebrate Women’s History month, visit the birthplace of New Jersey’s famous suffragist, Alice Paul. On Saturday, **March 8** at 2 p.m., Living Voices will be presenting “**Hear My Voice**” about the struggle for women’s rights at the Alice Paul Institute in Mt. Laurel. There will also be a presentation about Alice Paul’s life and work and a tour of Paulsdale, the Mt. Laurel birthplace of Quaker suffragist Alice Paul. Cost \$5. For information call 856-231-1885 or claires@alicepaul.org. To register go to www.alicepaul.org

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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:

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