

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

January 2014

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

NJ Council for the Social Studies

Why being a member of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies is important. The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies is a professional organization of social studies educators at all levels, from kindergarten to college. It provides professional development opportunities, resources, awards, information and advocacy. As schools are asked to do more with less and less time and fewer resources are allocated to the study of our world and society, it has become even more important for social studies educators to advocate for the policies and practices that will help our young people become the informed, engaged citizens who will be able to face the challenges of the 21st century. Start the year right: Use the attached Membership and Subscription form and become a member today!

Spring Conference for K-5 Educators. NJCSS and NJSSSA are sponsoring a 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 registration fee. Go to <http://www.njcass.org> for the Call for Workshop Proposals and the conference registration form. Workshop proposals are due February 1, 2014. The registration deadline is March 7, 2014.

SAVE THE DATE: The next annual NJCSS Fall Conference will be held on **October 22, 2014**.

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

The New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association will be meeting on **January 31, 2014** at the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association facility in Monroe. The agenda includes voting on proposed amendments to our constitution, an update from Beverly Plein (NJDOE), an overview of the C3 curriculum framework, a presentation on Discovery Education Techbooks, a presentation regarding changes to AP US History, and a new supervisors/mentors discussion. Teachers are invited to attend, especially for the AP US History portion of the agenda, but each individual attendee must register and pay the refreshment offset; \$10 for paid NJSSSA members and \$20 for all others payable at the door. To register for the January 31 NJSSSA meeting go to <http://tinyurl.com/NJSSSA-Jan>.

SAVE THE DATE: A spring meeting will be held on **May 16th, 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. Send a workshop proposal by using the vendor/presenter form and/or register to participate at <http://www.mscsonline.org/>. In addition to speakers and workshops, this year’s conference will include a special trip to Mount Vernon.

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/>

[Back to top](#)

Student Events

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.

The **National History Bee and Bowl** is getting set for its fourth year of history quiz tournaments across the USA. The History Bee (for individual students) and the History Bowl (for teams) are two separate history quiz competitions which are held throughout the USA in a series of regional competitions. The top students and teams qualify for the National Championships in the spring. The questions reference all eras and fields of history, including history of the arts, sciences, religion, historical geography, and even a bit of sports and entertainment history. For more information on the elementary and middle school division, see www.historybee.com. For the high school division tournaments, go to www.historybowl.com and www.hs.historybee.com. Cost: \$75 per student; \$150 for school. Deadline to register is **January 24, 2014**.

The 2013-14 New Jersey State ***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** competition for high schools will be held on **February 5, 2014** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. If you would like to observe this year's competition, contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu. To see a five-minute video about the program go to <http://bcove.me/wcuf1cjb>. Several independent national studies have reported that students participating in *We the People* not only outperformed the national sample of high school students participating in the NAEP in their civic knowledge but also were more politically tolerant and reported greater interest in political affairs. *We the People* Materials may be ordered for upper elementary, middle and high school grades by going to <http://store.civiced.org>

The **New Jersey Council for the Humanities**, in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, is offering a two-day workshop, *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape Our Communities*, at Montclair State University on **Feb. 8-9, 2014** for 7-12th grade teachers of all disciplines from Essex, Hudson, Morris, and Passaic Counties. A registration fee of \$30 is required. Deadline: Jan. 10, 2014. For the application form and additional information go to <http://nich.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/2CENTS-HTT-2014-Application-online.doc>

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/pcportfolio.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 **February 14, 2014** 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>

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 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.

[Back to top](#)

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". Three regional competitions will be held in the spring: **March 8** at Princeton; **March 29** at Seton Hall and **April 6** at TCNJ. The state contest will be Saturday, **May 3, 2014** at William Paterson University. More 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.

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](#).

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. Congratulations to the following schools that have instituted Rho Kappa chapters: Academy of the Holy Angels (Demarest), Arthur L. Johnson High School (Clark), Bergen Catholic High School, Bergenfield High School, Colonia High School, Fort Lee High School, Immaculate Conception High School (Montclair), J.P. Stevens High School (Edison), Livingston High School, Manasquan High School, Mater Dei Prep (Middletown), Randolph High School, Voorhees High School, West Orange High School. Consider applying to start a local chapter at your high school. For more information, go to <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org>.

Professional Development

The **Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program** at Waynesburg University is offering online workshops for teachers on Wednesdays, January 15 through February 19, from 1 to 2 p.m. or 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. To register go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BASICS-REGISTRATION>

The **Alliance for NJ Environmental Education** is sponsoring its 29th annual Conference, "*Cultivating Environmental Citizenship*," on **January 24-25, 2014** at the Crowne Plaza in Plainsboro. Go to www.anjee.org for information and registration.

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. One-day professional development workshops for teachers 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. The professional development workshop for **upper elementary teachers and librarians** scheduled to be held on **January 29 has been moved to April 2, 2014** to provide additional time for teachers to obtain approval and to avoid winter weather. A day-long workshop for **secondary school social studies teachers and supervisors** will be held at Rutgers University on **February 12, 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 9-10, 2014**. The goal is not only for students to better understand the past but also to help students develop critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making skills. [Click](#) for additional information and the registration forms or go to <http://www.njcass.org> or <http://civiced.rutgers.edu>.

[Back to top](#)

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.

Colonial Williamsburg has six elementary, two middle and two high school 5-6-day summer programs available for teachers in **June and July 2014**. Elementary school sessions will focus on the colonial and the early nation period "on location" in Williamsburg, and nearby Jamestown and Yorktown. Middle school sessions will visit historic sites in Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, and Richmond, from 1607 to the Civil War. High school sessions 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**.

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

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 members 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.njcss.org or <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> for a registration form.

Resources for Teachers

The **Foreign Policy Research Institute's** History Institute on "*The Invention of the Modern Middle East, Post-World War I, and the Reinvention of the Middle East, Post-Arab Spring*" has been archived as a webcast at: www.fpri.org

NJ350. New Jersey began as a royal gift from the King of England in 1664. In 2014, New Jersey will be turning 350! Numerous events are being planned across the state to celebrate and commemorate the 350th anniversary. *The Star-Ledger* will be publishing "This Week in New Jersey History" starting in January 2014. A series of New Jersey-focused classroom lessons are being developed and will be available online for teachers. For additional information about events and resources, go to <http://www.officialnj350.com>. 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.

[Back to top](#)

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.

Legislators Back to School. If you would like to invite one of your members of the New Jersey State Legislature to your classroom, go to www.njleg.state.nj.us/ to find your members of the state legislature and their contact information. You may also want to contact Dawn Temperino at the NJ Legislature at dtemperino@njleg.org for additional information about planning for your legislator's visit.

[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:

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