

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

March 2013

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

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. No Purchase Orders. Mail your form **TODAY** (March 12th) or we will not receive it in time. No registration at the door. The conference registration form is available on the NJCSS website at www.njcss.org.

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/>

SAVE THE DATE: NJCSS Annual Fall Conference **October 23, 2013**. Get approval this spring for next fall's annual conference.

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 Arlene Gardner at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu

NJSSSA

NJSSSA had its first meeting to develop **sample social studies lessons for grades 5-8** on Wednesday, February 27. The next meeting will be held on **April 11** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Livingston 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 general 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 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*. If you are interested in learning more or would like to be a judge at one of the contests, e-mail njhistoryday@wpunj.edu. Regional Contest: **March 23** at Kean University. State Contest: **May 4** at William Paterson University.

[Back to top](#)

The [Fourth Annual First Amendment Cartoon Contest](#) is open to elementary, middle and high 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: **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 2012-13 Digital *Project Citizen Showcase* should contact the New Jersey Center for Civic Education **by April 1** at 848-445-3413 or civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu.

[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>.

The **2013 SPIRIT of the JERSEY 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.state.nj.us.

Professional Development

A free teacher workshop on [Debate in Middle School](#) will be held on Thursday, **March 14th** in Allentown, NJ. Textbook, handbook--and lunch provided. Learn more about integrating debate into your classroom curriculum, as well as how to develop a debate program in your school. For more information, contact Carol Losos at closos@esuus.org or go to: http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/middle_school_debate/GSDL/

The [Dirksen Congressional Center](#) is offering a three-day summer workshop , [Congress in the Classroom](#), in East Peoria, IL, for high school or middle school teachers who teach U.S. history, government, civics, political science, or social studies. **Application deadline: March 15**. Participants are responsible for (1) a non-refundable \$135 registration fee (required to confirm acceptance after notice of selection) and (2) transportation to and from Peoria, Illinois. For more information and the online registration form go to: http://www.dirksencenter.org/programs_CiApplication.htm

The [Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers](#) is offering the following professional development workshops: "American Families: From the Puritans to the Present"--**March 15**, "The Early Republic 1787-1824: Political, Cultural, and Legal Changes"--**April 4**, "The New Deal and the Social Safety Net, 1929-Present"--**April 17**, and "American Industrialization: The New Jersey Experience"--**April 25**. For more information and to register, email rcha@rci.rutgers.edu or go to: <http://rcha.rutgers.edu/institute-for-high-school-teachers/seminars/2012-2013-seminar-schedule>.

[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 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 its significance, 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**. Call 973-595-7953 or visit www.labormuseum.net.

[Back to top](#)

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 interest in Europe and provides continuing education credits. There is no fee to attend, but 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 State Bar Foundation is sponsoring its 22nd Annual Law-Related Education Conference on Friday, **April 19**, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the NJ Law Center in New Brunswick. The conference is free but a \$20 refundable deposit is required. The registration form is at <http://www.njsbf.org/images/content/1/1/11491.pdf>. For additional information contact Florence Nathan at fnathan@njsbf.org or 732-937-7518.

The **For Action Initiative**, established to educate students about the global context of 9/11 and terrorism and to inspire students to take action through a series of curriculum lessons, is offering a **Teacher Fellowship**. The Fellowship includes a \$4000 award to support efforts by a teacher to create and implement an outreach project in his or her classroom, school, community or professional organization. Application deadline **April 22**, 2013. For application and additional information go to info@foractioninitiative.org

“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 and 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.

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**.

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

[Back to top](#)

The Center for the Constitution at Madison's home, Montpelier, in Virginia, is offering a summer seminar, ***The Constitutional Structure of Government: Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances, July 10-12, 2013***. Applicants are accepted on a rolling basis. Once accepted, applicants must submit a \$50 nonrefundable registration fee. Go to <http://learn.montpelier.org/seminars/179>.

Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge, PA, is offering a summer institute, ***Teaching American History & the Medal of Honor Legacy, July 21 - 26, 2013***. Teachers will study modern American international conflicts, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan with recognized experts, and meet and interact with Medal of Honor recipients and discover their stories of valor and heroism in the face of mortal danger. Participants will explore the character traits exemplified by MOH recipients and develop classroom curricula that connects students to America's past and prepares them for a future as engaged responsible citizens. They will also visit Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, Declaration House, the National Museum of American Jewish History, and the Medal of Honor Grove. Go to <http://www.freedomfoundation.org/GraduateProgram3.cfm>

Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is offering 23 different travel programs for the summer of 2013: India/Nepal, Italy, Portugal/Spain, Amalfi Coast, Eastern Europe, Budapest to Istanbul, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Comfort Thailand, Thailand/Laos, Cambodia, China, Comfort China, Russia/Mongolia/China, Turkey, Morocco, Peru, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Kenya/Tanzania, South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe/Botswana,. **Registration deadline: June 1st**, but space is limited and many programs will be full well before the deadline. Educators have the option to earn graduate school credit and professional development credit while seeing the world. The trips are 8 to 24 days in length and are designed to be interesting and affordable for teachers. GEEO provides teachers educational materials and the structure to help them bring their experiences into the classroom. Detailed information about each trip can be found at www.geeo.org or call [1-877-600-0105](tel:1-877-600-0105).

Resources for Teachers

March is Women's History Month. From its roots in labor history to support internationally through the United Nations, International Women's Day has been a time to reflect on progress in the expansion of rights for women, changes needed and heroines who've helped inspire and work for women's rights. Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society. The United States has observed it annually throughout the month of March since 1987. There are many sources for classroom ideas and materials about women's history, including the following:

- **The Library of Congress** has a huge collection of primary source materials about women at <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>
- **The History Channel** has classroom ideas for teaching about the contributions and impact of women from the exploration of the country through today at <http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history-month>
- **BIO Classroom** has a featured video about Sally Ride at <http://www.biography.com/> as well as a [Women's History interactive timeline](#), and [Women's History study guides](#).
- **Facing History Facing Ourselves** has four resources that you might want to consider: 1. *I Promised I Would Tell* by Holocaust survivor Sonia Weits tells her story during World War II. 2. Anna Deavere Smith challenges students to see the world from someone else's perspective in a short video clip that you can use in your classroom. 3. *Stitching Truth: Women's Protest Art in Pinochet's Chile*. 4. Community conversations with inspirational soccer coach Luma Mufleh. Go to <http://www.facinghistory.org/about/voices/womens-history-month-toolkit>.

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 njdatabank@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.

[Back to top](#)

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

Student Growth Objectives. On March 6, 2013, the NJ Dept. of Education announced a proposed regulation as part of the educator evaluation reform (EE4NJ). The regulation will have a final vote in June after the state collects feedback. New Jersey is required to show evidence of aligning teacher evaluations to student achievement as part of its waiver from No Child Left Behind.

The state has defined two measures linking student achievement to teacher evaluation: student growth percentiles (tested area teachers, grades 4-8) and student growth objectives (all teachers, tested and non-tested areas). Social studies teachers are all in the non-tested area and will need to develop student growth objectives (SGOs). The state identified SGOs as means to measure student achievement, accounting for a minimum of 15% of teachers' evaluations in non-tested areas.

An SGO is a "locally-calculated score that measures a teacher's impact on student achievement". Non-tested area teachers must develop two annual SGOs with "specific and measurable academic goals" based on students' growth. SGOs are developed by teachers with guidance and approval of their principal (or designee). In developing SGOs, teachers have a wide array of contexts to draw upon, including their courses, curricula, specific content/skills, and students' abilities. SGOs can be developed from student performance on local assessments, or they can be connected through a portfolio of assessments and artifacts from the classroom. As a non-tested area, social studies teachers have great latitude in developing SGOs.

Explanation from *Brad Siegel, Director, Curriculum and Instruction, Northern Highlands Regional School District.*

[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>