

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

March 2014

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

Spring Conference for K-5 Educators. More than two hundred teachers have registered for “**Student Growth: Reading and Writing through Social Studies**,” the second statewide conference for elementary teachers, supervisors and principals sponsored by the NJCSS and NJSSSA. To be held on **March 19, 2014** at Rutgers University in Piscataway, 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. Registration ended **March 12, 2014**. Please do not mail any forms. If you have been approved for this conference and have not received a confirmation, please contact Marci Small at 848-445-3413. On-site payment is only available for those who have registered by email beforehand.

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.njcass.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 ACETA 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

NJSSSA is sponsoring a free workshop for pre-service teachers on **March 29** from 12 to 3 p.m. at Rutgers University's Busch Campus Center in Piscataway. The workshop offers time for these candidates to experience "mini-mock interviews" and also to have their cover letters/resumes reviewed by supervisors. This is a great opportunity for supervisors to meet a pool of potential candidates from a variety of schools. For additional information contact Matt Mingle at matthew.mingle@gmail.com or Noel Baxter at noelbaxter@gmail.com.

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

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/>

National Council for the Social Studies

SAVE THE DATE: The annual conference will be held **November 21-23, 2014** in Boston. Registration opens June 1st. Go to <http://www.socialstudies.org/conference>.

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Student Events

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 Council for Economic Education is sponsoring a Financial Literacy competition. [Sign](#) up and register your class for free access to **Gen i Revolution**. Encourage your students play and explore the [15 missions](#) to learn important personal finance concepts. While playing, brainstorm ideas for a new 16th Mission. The 16th Mission should fall within one of six categories: earning Income, buying goods and services, saving, using credit, financial investing, and protecting and Insuring. Winners get prizes and the chance to have their mission actually developed and added to CEE's free online personal finance game! Application accepted starting April 1st. Go to: <http://www.councilforeconed.org/events/gen-i-revolution-contest/>

The **National Economics Challenge** enables high school students to apply their knowledge of economics in a fun, challenging, and rewarding contest. Competitions are held at the state and national levels. New Jersey EconChallenge Online Competition has begun and runs through April 3. It is not too late to enter. Go to <http://www.econchallenge.org/state-selection/index.html>. 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](#).

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 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>

NJEA's Classroom Close-Up is sponsoring a monthly video contest. This month's topic is anti-drug/alcohol. The contest deadline for NJEA members to submit student-created videos has been extended until March 31. Voting will take place during the month of April. [Learn more and enter the contest here](#). The winner of the first contest is Morris Knolls High School. They will be highlighted in the final show of the season that will air on June 22.

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.

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. The workshop scheduled for **April 2, 2014** is full and no additional applicants will be accepted. Another workshop will be held on **December 9, 2014**. For teachers who have participated in prior professional development and would like to be trained to offer professional development in their school districts, advanced training 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>.

Celebrate New Jersey's 350th Anniversary with a **History Symposium** at NJCU in Jersey City. New Jersey City University, in partnership with the NJEA and the New Jersey Historical Commission, is offering an entertaining, educational and enlightening symposium about New Jersey on Saturday, **April 5th** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Teachers, students and fans of the Garden State are invited to look at our state's contributions to the region, the nation and the world. Continuing Education Credits are available for public school teachers. Attendance will be limited so sign up today. For more information or to register for this celebration, visit 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 certificates 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**.

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

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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, 2104**, 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.

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 AmerianArtInstitutes@si.edu

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.

Social Studies Issues

New Jersey Core Content Social Studies Standards Review. Although New Jersey law requires that the core content standards be reviewed every five years (is it five years already?), it does not require that they be revised. The 2009 State Social Studies Standards are currently being reviewed but do not expect any major changes. The skills may be updated to be more consistent with the Common Core ELA standards, but the CPIs are unlikely to be revised except minimally. Schools just started implementing the 2009 standards this past year and there are too many changes with the Common Core.

Social Studies “Model Curriculum” and Assessment. The NJ Department of Education has been developing a “Model Curriculum” to provide guidance to curriculum writers in school districts about the types of learning experiences that will help students develop critical thinking skills and be college and career ready. The “Model Curriculum” integrates the social studies standards and the common core through student learning objectives and summative assessments. The high school “Model Curriculum,” which was prepared during 2013, is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/modelcurriculum/ss/>. The NJ Department of Education is now seeking social studies educators with curriculum writing experience to work on developing “Model Curriculum” for grades K-4 and 5-8, starting this spring and working primarily over the summer. If you are interested, send your name, teaching experience and experience writing curricula to Beverly Plein at Beverly.Plein@doe.state.nj.us.

Resources for Teachers

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

- The **New Jersey Historical Commission** has lessons about New Jersey women on its website, including: Women at Work: Rosie the Riveter at <http://nj.gov/state/historical/nj-350/nj350-er-rosie.pdf> and Alice Paul at <http://nj.gov/state/historical/nj-350/nj350-er-paul.pdf>.

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- 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. If you are a member of the NJ Council for the Social Studies, you should have received your copy!
- 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>.
- The **Alice Paul Institute** and Preservation Partners have introduced a revised New Jersey Women's History Website (www.njwomenshistory.org), for visiting sites of significance to women's history in New Jersey, either online or by driving through the Garden State. The website will feature the blog, *Jersey Girl Greats* by Maeve Kelly, spotlighting daily biographies of notable New Jersey women throughout the month of March. For more information contact Kris Myers, director of programs for the Alice Paul Institute at 856-231-1885 or kmyers@alicepaul.org.
- **Discovery Education** has online materials for grade 6-8 and 9-12 about the Birth of the American Women's Movement and Women's Voting Rights. Go to Discovery Education, register and login.

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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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