

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

November 2015

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

NJ Council for the Social Studies

Thank you to everybody who contributed to the NJCSS annual fall conference this year. Five hundred people participated in the two-day event, which included 25 different workshops each day, as well as 30 exhibitors. Dr. Jeffrey Passe, Dean of the School of Education at the College of New Jersey, addressed the conferees on October 20th and John Mooney, editor of Spotlight New Jersey, on October 21st. Both urged teachers to become more involved in advocating for social studies. Below are some visual highlights from the two-day conference. Even if you missed the conference, you can still become a member of NJCSS. Go to www.njcss.org for the registration form.



Dr. Jeff Passe, Dean of the School of Education at the College of New Jersey, talks about the reduction in teaching time for social studies and how we need to be more proactive at the October 20, 2015 NJCSS Conference



Karen Vanderleest from Ramsey Public Schools, explains how "History Detectives" can promote inquiry in an elementary social studies class



Amanda Matticks and Cathy Zahn, from Sharon Elementary School in Robbinsville, show teachers online resources to teach about New Jersey



Mary Byatt, from Birches Elementary School in Washington Township, discusses close readings at the Oct. 20, 2015 NJCSS Conference



Teachers looking at materials available from exhibitors during the coffee break at the October 20, 2015 NJCSS Conference



Detailed discussions with exhibitors about classroom materials at the October 21, 2015 NJCSS Conference



John Mooney, editor of Spotlight New Jersey and education reporter, talks about the state of education in New Jersey at the October 21, 2015 NJCSS annual conference



Westfield High School teacher Mary Keller sharing ideas about teaching law at the October 21, 2015 NJCSS Conference



East Brunswick High School teacher Alan Brodman works with teachers on *We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution* materials at the October 21, 2015 NJCSS Conference



Montclair University professor Fred Cotterell talks with teachers about infusing economics into U.S. History

Awards



NJCSS President Joseph Orlak presents the Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year award to Mary Byatt at the October 20, 2015 NJCSS Conference



NJSSSA vice-president Robert O'Dell presents the 2015 Social Studies Service Award to Noel Baxter, Social Studies Supervisor in Scotch Plains-Fanwood and current NJSSSA president



NJCSS President Joseph Orlak; NJCSS social studies service awardee and editor of The Docket Alan Singer, NJCSS executive director Arlene Gardner, and NJCSS social studies teacher of the year Michael Freizer from Bayonne High School, at the October 21, 2015 NJCSS Conference

New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association

If you are a current, former or prospective social studies supervisor, join the NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association. Membership includes the NJCSS biannual journal and online resources, as well as several all-day meetings each year and a google group network. One year's joint membership in NJSSSA/NJCSS is \$40.

NJSSSA meetings for 2015-2016 include:

- January 15, 2016 at NJPSA in Monroe
- March 4, 2016 workshop for elementary teachers at Rutgers University in Piscataway
- May 6, 2016 at NJPSA in Monroe.

Regional Council Conferences

- **Middle States** Council for the Social Studies conference Feb. 26-27, 2016 in Annapolis, MD
- **Northeast Regional** Conference for the Social Studies, April 2016 in Sturbridge, MA
- **National Council for History Education**—April 21-23, 2016 Conference in Niagara Falls, NY

Social Studies Issues

House and Senate lawmakers have reached preliminary agreement on a bill for the long-stalled reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The language providing funding for social studies programs is still included. The agreement will set the stage for an official conference committee, which would likely kick off next week. The legislation could be on the floor of the House and Senate by the end of this month, or early next month. We may need to lobby our members of Congress to ensure that social studies remains in the bill.

Professional Development

The New Jersey Council for History Education (NJCHE) is holding its 23rd Annual History Conference at Princeton University on Friday, **December 4, 2015**. The conference will focus on Tyranny and Freedom, and will feature several eminent historians, including Eric Foner, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Stephen Kotkin. The cost is \$75 and includes NJCHE membership. Go to <http://www.njche.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/1215-Registration-Form.pdf> for the conference registration form.

[Back to top](#)

The NJ Department of Education is sponsoring a webinar about the Bill of Rights and its impact by the **National Archives** to be held on **Dec. 2**. Register at <http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=23016>



Put a Little New Jersey in Your Classroom. Secondary school teachers (grades 6-12) are invited to a one-day workshop to learn about and to help develop lessons about New Jersey history and government that will enhance U.S. History classes and make history more real. The workshop will be on **December 8, 2015** at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University in Piscataway, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To register send an email to agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu by Nov. 24th. A similar program will be held this summer for grades K-8.

The **Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers** is offering its last program this semester, *Lincoln and the Civil War*, on **December 11, 2015** from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It will be taught by Rutgers faculty and held at the Rutgers New Brunswick campus. For additional information and to register go to <http://rcha.rutgers.edu/>



Thirty hours of professional development in the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* materials with scholars and teacher-mentors are being offered for 15 NJ high school teachers this winter: **Dec. 15, 2015; Jan. 29 and March 11-13, 2016**. The curriculum enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy as well as the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The materials are easily integrated into a civics, U.S. History or U.S. Government class, or as a stand-alone curriculum. Participants will receive a free set of classroom books and a \$500 stipend when they use the materials next year. To participate send an email to agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu. A similar professional development program will be offered in July 2016 for middle and high school teachers.

Seton Hall University is offering a 15-credit *United Nations Studies certificate* that can be completed in less than a year. The courses will be taught by experienced practitioners and seasoned educators. The program will focus on active learning assignments, including op-eds, memo writing, and policy analysis. Applications are welcome for **Spring 2016**. For additional information go to <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/certificate-united-nations-studies.cfm> or contact Daniel Kristo at Daniel.kristo@shu.edu or 973-275-2142.

The **American Institute for Economic Research** is offering a multi-day workshop for high school teachers, *Economics Across the Curriculum*, to increase understanding and integration of economic concepts. The workshop will be held **June 27-30, 2016** at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston; **July 11-13, 2016** at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; and **August 1-4, 2016** at the Federal Reserve Bank of **Philadelphia**. Registration fee: \$50. Professional development or graduate credits, as well as a stipend for field testing lessons can be earned. Go to <https://www.aier.org/teach-teachers> to register.

The **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** offers a *Teacher Fellowship* program designed to immerse secondary school educators who have been teaching about the Holocaust for at least five years in advanced historical and pedagogical issues relating to the Holocaust. The program will be held **July 17-21, 2016** at the National Holocaust Museum. For more information go to <http://www.ushmm.org/educators/professional-events-and-resources/museum-teacher-fellowship-program>. Deadline: Feb. 1, 2016.

Resources for Teachers



Crossroads of the American Revolution has a list of historic sites that offer school programs and resources about the American Revolution in New Jersey as well as a newly-published teachers' guide for classroom discussion at www.revolutionarynj.org. There is a reduced membership fee of \$20 for New Jersey teachers who want to join the statewide effort to support our revolutionary heritage in the state. Go to <http://revolutionarynj.org/donations-membership/product/membership/>

[Back to top](#)



Over 30 lessons with correlations to New Jersey and common core standards, primary source documents and images and other handouts, focus questions, objectives, and links to additional resources and relevant places to visit in New Jersey, are online at www.njcss.org (under resources) and <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/njlessons.html>. Upper elementary teachers could use these lessons as a full curriculum about New Jersey history. More lessons for secondary grades connected to topics in U.S. history I and II will be added this winter.



To commemorate the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey, the New Jersey Historical Commission has sponsored the development of a series of 90 second videos, "It Happened Here in New Jersey," highlighting innovation, diversity and liberty in the history of New Jersey. The videos are available on the Commission's website at <http://nj.gov/state/historical/>, and the NJ350 website at <http://officialnj350.com>, along with lessons.

Student Events

Amnesty International is inviting educators to participate in [Write for Rights](#), which encourages young people to write letters and send email messages to help people around the world whose rights are being violated. An [educator's guide](#) is available with five specific cases of human rights abuses around the world. Use one class period to have your students learn about human rights violations around the globe and to write a letter between now and Human Rights Day on **December 10th**.

The Harlan Institute and The Constitutional Sources Project (ConSource) are sponsoring a **Virtual Supreme Court** competition for high school students. This year the competition focuses on a case exploring whether race conscious affirmative action is consistent with the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Teachers interested in participating should sign up on FantasySCOTUS at HarlanInstitute.org, add an account, read the problem, and get started. For further information go to info@consource.org.



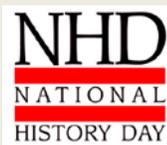
We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution integrates U.S. history, government, and law to enhance student understanding of American constitutional democracy. The annual New Jersey State *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* High School Competition will be held on **January 29, 2016**. It is set up in the format of simulated legislative hearings with the students testifying as "experts" on the Constitution. They respond to questions about the history and fundamental principles underlying our government, the powers of and interaction among the three branches of government and current Constitutional issues. The winning class represents New Jersey at the National *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* competition in Washington, D.C. Contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are interested in bringing a competing class or observing the competition.

World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest challenges students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges: deforestation, public health, or water scarcity. Students can win up to \$1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is **February 25, 2016**. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest.



Project Citizen involves students in understanding public policy and emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government. The New Jersey State *Project Citizen* Digital Portfolio Showcase will be held online. Digital portfolios are due by **June 3, 2016**, but teachers planning on submitting a project should register by emailing civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu by **February 26, 2016**. Middle and high school class projects with the highest scores will be sent to the National *Project Citizen* Showcase. [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers. For additional information about *Project Citizen* and projects from the last three years go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/projectcitizen.html>.

[Back to top](#)



National History Day. The theme for the 2015-2016 National History Day program is "Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History". The three regional competitions will be held:

- Saturday, **February 27, 2016**, at Monmouth University
- Saturday, **March 5, 2016**, at Princeton University
- Saturday, **March 12, 2016**, at Seton Hall University

The final State History Day Competition will be on **May 7, 2016 at William Paterson**. For additional information go to <http://nj.nhd.org/>



The **State House Express** provides awards of up to \$350 to eligible middle-school and high-school teachers of government, civics, history, and other social studies classes to visit the State House. State House Express student groups have the option of participating in a simulation of the legislative process during which they learn more about the process of bill passage and practice the skills of debate, discussion, negotiation, compromise and voting. Learn more about the pieces of legislation that will be used this academic year. For additional information go to <http://yppp.rutgers.edu/for-teachers/state-house-express>.



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 starting a local chapter at your high school. Visit <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org>.

The **National History Club** brings students and teachers from around the country with a real passion for history together in discovering, learning, reading, writing, teaching and living history. Activities are shared by each club. For more information contact Robert Nasson at rnasson@nationalhistoryclub.org

Host International Exchange Students. Host or find families in your school district to host international high school exchange students supported by the U.S. Dept. of State. Hosting international exchange students develops cross-cultural understanding not only in local communities and schools, but around the world when the students return home and share their experience. The international exchange students are competitively selected and are provided on-going support throughout their exchange. Most of the students are here from roughly August 15 through June 15th. Learn more and fill out an interest form at www.hosting.state.gov or email youthprograms@state.gov.

New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

President: Joseph Orlak, Supervisor, Pascack Valley Regional High School District
Vice President: Brian Cameron, Supervisor, Garfield Public Schools
Secretary: Angela Smith, Jefferson Middle School, Edison
Treasurer: Christine Gehringer, Supervisor, Washington Twp. Public Schools, Sewell
Executive Director and Editor: Arlene Gardner

[Back to top](#)

If you have information about an event, resources, professional development or other activity of interest to social studies educators, please send it by the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's enewsletter to Arlene Gardner at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu. Information will be included at the discretion of the editor.

