

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

March 2012

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

The next meeting of the **New Jersey Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)** will be held on Thursday, **March 15, 2012**, at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Edison, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. If you are a member and would like to join us at this meeting and/or work on one of the NJCSS committees, send me an email at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu. Visit the new twitter account for NJCSS at <https://twitter.com/NJCSSNetwork> to follow topics of interest to social studies.

The annual NJCSS conference, "*Social Studies and the Common Core: Moving Forward*," will be held on **October 24, 2012** at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, Piscataway. The **Call for Proposals** is attached and can also be found at <http://www.njcss.org>. Email or fax your completed workshop proposal by **June 1, 2012** to civiced@rutgers.edu or 732-445-3420 to be considered for presentation at the annual conference. A Conference Registration and 2012-2013 **NJCSS** Membership form is also attached and may be found at the NJCSS website, <http://www.njcss.org>.

Affiliated organizations

The next **NJSSSA** meeting will be held at NJPSA, 12 Centre Dr., Monroe, on **May 17, 2012**. Focus on geography. To register for the meeting, go to <http://tinyurl.com/74qveoo>.

Last chance to sign up for the **Middle States Council for the Social Studies** annual spring conference in Baltimore, Maryland, on Friday, **March 9, 2012**. Go to <http://www.msccss.net/MSCCSSwebsiteneuwpmainpage.html>.

The **Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies (NERC)** will hold its annual conference, "*The Role and Future of Social Studies*," on **April 3-5, 2012** at Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA. With nearly 100 different workshop sessions and clinics over two and a half days, NERC's 43rd annual conference promises to be quite worthwhile. To see a tentative agenda and to register go to <http://www.ctsocialstudies.org/>.

Student Events

This year was the 25th anniversary of the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* program. Eight high schools from around New Jersey participated in this year's annual state high school competition on February 2, 2012, including Bayonne, East Brunswick, Edison, Hamilton, Hopewell Valley, Marlboro, Montclair and West Windsor-Plainsboro. East Brunswick High School placed first and will represent New Jersey at the National *We the People* competition demonstrating their understanding and application of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.



East Brunswick High School students win first place in the 2012 We the People competition.

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The **National Council for the Social Studies** is proud to introduce **Rho Kappa, the National Social Studies Honor Society**. Rho Kappa provides national recognition and opportunities for exploration in 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. We invite you to consider applying to start a local chapter at your school. [Learn more at http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org](http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org).

The **Constitutional Rights Foundation** is sponsoring its third annual First Amendment Cartoon Contest open to elementary, middle and high school students nationwide. The theme of this year's contest is Free Expression through the rights of the people to "peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Six winners will each receive a \$50 prize. Five others will receive honorable mention and will be posted at www.courtsed.org. Deadline for submissions: **March 16**.

The **New Jersey State EconChallenge ONLINE** is a great way for students to flex their intellectual muscle and test their economic content knowledge. Sponsored by the Council for Economic Education, State Farm Insurance Company, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Nebraska Council on Economic Education, each student team will compete against other teams from across New Jersey on **April 12-18, 2012** for a chance to compete in the National Semifinals round on **April 24, 2012** and the National Finals Competition in New York City from **May 19th – 20th, 2012**. [Click for registration form](#). Please contact dyoung@councilforeconed or call 212-827-3602 with any questions.

The **Peace Islands Institute** is sponsoring its third annual Art and Essay Contest open to middle and high school students in New Jersey. The theme of this year's contest is *Poverty: Time to Act Together*. The contest will be held in two categories – Art and Essay - where students will be awarded monetary prizes ranging from \$100 to \$1000. More information is available at http://idcni.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=102&Itemid=441. Deadline: **May 4, 2012**.

The annual **Project Citizen Showcase** will be held digitally this year. Teachers may send one project (if you have many, send us the best one!) from grades 3-12. The digital portfolio may be in any digital format: a powerpoint, Photostory (available free online), a website, a DVD, a movie using Movie Maker (available free online) or other software, Live Binders (a free online source that allows you to create interactive "binders" online and to upload pictures, videos, and other interactive content), or any other type of computer-based presentation that you can send by link to a website. Teachers should send an email to civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu with the title of the project, teacher's name, grade, name of course, school and an email address where comments and questions related to the project can be sent along with a link to the project. The digital portfolio should identify: the problem selected and why it was selected; alternative policies; the policy selected and why; an action plan; reflections about the process and what was learned. We will accept portfolios through **May 2012**. For more details about **Project Citizen**, see **Resources for Teachers** on page four below.

The **New Jersey State House Tour Office** provides free educational tours and programs about the State House for students throughout the state. Tour guides are trained to engage a wide variety of audiences and to share the legislative process as a tool to promote and encourage civic involvement. Contact Sarah Schmidt at 609-633-2709 or smschmidt@njleg.org.

Professional Development

Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society will sponsor two sessions of the annual **Supreme Court Summer Institute, June 14–19 and June 21–26, 2012**. The Institute is open to secondary level social studies teachers & supervisors, who will spend five 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. Participants will also be present in the Court to hear the Justices announce the final decisions of the term and attend a private reception at the Court. For more information and to apply online, go to www.streetlaw.org/scsi_apply. Application deadline: **March 12**.

Teaching with Primary Sources: Five one-hour chat sessions are available for those interested in learning about models for inquiry teaching and learning, incorporating primary sources at each stage of the inquiry cycle, classroom-ready model activities and time-tested practices. Working individually and collaborating with colleagues, participants complete and develop inquiry-based learning activities and receive 15 hours of professional development. Tuesdays, **March 13–April 10**, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Register at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BV7X96H>, or visit <http://tps.waynesburg.edu/tpseasternregion/events>.

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The Constitutional Rights Foundation is offering a free webinar on **March 15** from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. on using the Civic Action Project (CAP), which encourages digital literacy, critical thinking, collaboration, self-direction, and learning to be an engaged, effective citizen in a democracy. Go to <http://www.crfcap.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=141>

The **Choices Program** is offering a **Summer Leadership Institute**, *Competing Visions of Human Rights: Challenges for U.S. Policy*. The institute includes leading scholars of international policy, effective instructional strategies for engaging students in the topic, and planning for outreach to other educators. Visit http://www.choices.edu/pd/institute_2012.php for information and an application. **Deadline: March 16.**

The **American Labor Museum** is sponsoring a workshop for teachers on Wednesday, **March 21, 2012** at the Botto House National Landmark in Haledon, NJ, to commemorate the centennial of "*The Bread and Roses Strike, Two Cities on Strike, Lawrence, Massachusetts & Paterson, NJ*". Historians and educators will discuss methods of integrating labor and immigrant studies into the curriculum. Teachers will receive five professional development hours and teaching materials for grades 4-12. Registration fee: \$45 for museum members, \$50 for non-members. For further information or to receive a registration form by mail, fax or email call the Museum at (973) 595-7953 or email labormuseum@aol.com. To register online visit http://www.labormuseum.net/?p=annual-special-events&event_id=325.

The Council for Economic Education announces seven new free workshops: **March 21**-Integrating the Common Core Standards and the Social Studies; **March 27**-AP Economics Review for Teachers by Teachers; **April 19**-Virtual Economics 4.0 and Killer Apps for your Social Studies Teaching Kit; **April 27**-Teaching Financial Crises; **May 4**-Music, Film, Art and Economics; **May 11**-A Man is NOT a Financial Plan: Empowering Girls in Personal Finance; and **May 17**--Middle School and Global 9 World History. To register go to <http://www.councilforeconed.org/nationalcenter/workshops.php>.

The **Bill of Rights Institute** is offering a Founders Fellowship Program: **Civil Liberty, Commerce, and the Constitution** in Washington, D.C. **July 16-20**. The program consists of five days of rigorous professional development intended to deepen participants' understanding of and appreciation for the American Founding, with a specific focus on the intersection of civil and economic liberty in the Constitution. Attending teachers will participate in pedagogical sessions, lectures with a master teacher and two Constitutional Scholars, as well as visiting the historic homes and monuments. Go to <http://www.tfaforms.com/231224> for an application. **Deadline: March 26**. For questions, contact Marianne Scott at events@BillofRightsInstitute.org.

The **Educational Seminars Program** provides short-term professional development opportunities to teachers and administrators from around the world, either 2–3 week reciprocal exchange programs or one-way professional development programs. Participating countries include Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, and Uruguay for reciprocal exchanges and Greece, India, and Italy for one-way programs. All Educational Seminars provide airfare, training, travel health care, and living costs. For more information, please visit www.americancouncils.org/es or e-mail edseminars@americancouncils.org. **Deadline: March 30.**

The 15th annual **Eisenhower Academy** summer institute for teachers will be held **July 8–13, 2012**, at Gettysburg College and Eisenhower National Historic Site in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Academy will include an in-depth perspective of Dwight D. Eisenhower as president and world leader, field trips, and effective strategies for teaching the Cold War era in the classroom. Lectures and discussion cover civil rights, the Cold War, 1950s economics, popular culture, and new scholarship on the Eisenhower Presidency. Total cost is \$695 for early registration by **April 1**. For more information contact john_joyce@nps.gov, or 717-338-9114 ext. 4411; or visit www.nps.gov/eise.

National Teacher Institutes at the **Smithsonian American Art Museum** in Washington, D.C. offers teachers for grades 6-12 a week-long exploration of the connections among American art, technology, and your curricula. This summer's Institutes will be held July 9–13, 2012, and July 30–August 3, 2012. A non-refundable program fee of \$200 per person supports the cost of resource materials. A limited number of \$500 scholarships are awarded each year. Three graduate credits are available through George Mason University. Visit www.AmericanArt.si.edu/education/dev/cs to apply. Direct queries to AmericanArtClariceSmithInitiative@si.edu or 202-633-8387. **Deadline: April 2, 2012.**

The Foreign Policy Research Institute is sponsoring a History Institute for teachers, "**Great Battles and How they have Shaped American History**," on Saturday and Sunday, **April 21-22, 2012** at the First Division Museum in Wheaton, IL. Email history@fpri.org for additional information on how to apply.

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The **National Humanities Center** provides America in Class online seminars to improve teacher content knowledge, promote discussion based instruction, and provide fresh material for use with students. TGC is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) administered by IREX (the International Research & Exchanges Board). The cost is \$35 per seminar. For further information, visit www.irex.org/application/teachers-global-classrooms-application-tgc. E-mail Carolyn Kopik, assistant director of education programs, for special pricing, at ckoplik@nationalhumanitiescenter.org.

Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is offering 16 different travel programs for the summer of 2012: India/Nepal, Vietnam, Thailand/Laos/Cambodia, China, Russia/Mongolia/China, Egypt, Turkey, South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe/Botswana, Morocco, Argentina/Uruguay/Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica. Educators may earn three graduate credits from Indiana University or professional development credit while seeing the world. The trips are 8 to 24 days in length and are designed and discounted 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, including itineraries, costs, travel dates, and more can be found at www.geeo.org. GEEO can be reached 7 days a week, toll free at [1-877-600-0105](tel:1-877-600-0105).

The **EdTechTeacher** summer workshop series features a variety of history selection, including the Civil War and World War II with Technology and Teaching Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome with Technology, Ipad classrooms, and Primary Sources, from **June 25 through August 3** at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. For additional information and to register go to <http://edtechteacher.org/summer2012>

Resources for Teachers

The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission is sponsoring a discussion and slide presentation of **Lenape-Delaware Indian Heritage** with noted Lenape Historian John T. Kraft on Saturday, **March 24, 2012** 2:00 p.m. at the American Indian Center/The Lodge, Thompson Park, Jamesburg, NJ.

Join the second annual **Democracy Day** on **March 23, 2012** to prepare your high school seniors to cast a ballot in their first election this November, and educate young Americans about the importance of active citizenship in this year's elections and beyond. Democracy Class (www.democracyclass.com) is a one-period nonpartisan lesson plan that uses video, issues discussions and a mock election to teach young people the skills to navigate the elections process and register to vote so that they can truly take part in our democracy. Interested educators can sign up at www.democracyday.com to receive their FREE toolkit including the lesson plan, video, buttons, T-shirts and a banner to make this a day their students won't forget. Organizations interested in partnership should contact **Chrissy Faessen** chrissy@rockthevote.com / [202-719-9941](tel:202-719-9941).

Do you involve your students in project-based learning, or would you like to? **Project Citizen** involves both service learning and civic education. The materials set forth a process to help teachers guide their students through a project. Students identify a local or state problem, research ways to resolve it, decide on the best solution and develop a plan for implementing it. In the process, students learn about federalism, public policy, how to influence change, and they improve their local community. **Project Citizen** provides the steps and public policy context to help you. The classroom set of materials includes 30 student textbooks plus a teacher's guide. Classroom sets of Level One (middle school) Project Citizen books are available for the cost of shipping. If you are interested in obtaining a free classroom set of materials by simply paying the shipping costs, send an email with your name, grade, school and school address to: Marci Small at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu. High school classroom sets are available for \$295 plus shipping at <http://store.civiced.org>

The **Constitutional Rights Foundation** has free online lessons, including America's Economic Crisis Lessons, America Responds to terrorism, *Brown v. Board* 50th Anniversary, Educating about Immigration, Educating about Intellectual Property, Election central Resources, School-based Service Learning and more. For an index of free online lessons go to <http://www.crf-usa.org/online-lessons-index/free-lessons-index.html>.

Electronic New Jersey provides online access to an expanding set of curriculum units—now 23—using New Jersey history content for instruction about core themes in U. S. History for classroom teachers grades 5-12. You can access the materials at <http://njdigitalhighway.org/enj/> or <http://njdigitalhighway.org/educators.php>.

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iCivics is designed to reinvigorate civics teaching through engaging games, lessons and other web-based materials at <http://www.icivics.org> for upper elementary and middle school grades. A new game, *Win the White House*, teaches students about the electoral process, the role of the Electoral College, and the influence of media in shaping public opinion by players running for president from the primaries through Election Day. Players have to make choices about their party, platform, vice-president, and where to fundraise, poll, and spend their campaign dollars on appearances and advertisements as they strive for their 270 electoral votes. The game is available at <http://www.icivics.org/games/win-white-house>.

Conflict Resolution and United States History offers an engaging way to involve students in grades 5-12 in considering historical documents and multiple perspectives in order to better understand what happened in the past and why. The printed materials include a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and power points for case studies of conflicts in American history ranging from the colonial period through the 1990s as well as a DVD. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/CONFLICT/overview.shtml> for a sample lesson, 4-minute video, teacher comments and an order form. Contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu for additional information or questions.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution offers supplementary materials that integrate lessons about U.S. history and government through critical thinking activities that improve student writing and speaking skills. There are specifically-designed materials for upper elementary, middle and high school grades. To order classroom sets of these excellent, inexpensive materials, go to <http://store.civiced.org>.

The Best Job in Politics: How Governors Succeed as Policy Leaders by Alan Rosenthal, from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, is now available. Professor Rosenthal has written extensively about state legislatures, but in early March his new book will be on governors and how they exercise policy leadership in their legislatures will be published by CQ Press in Washington, DC and will be available for purchase at Amazon.com. Rosenthal's book covers governors in the fifty states during the period from 1980 to 2010. It draws on responses to a survey of former governors and personal interviews with former governors, as well as biographies and memoirs.

Historical Documents of New Jersey and the United States, including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the U.S. Constitution and the New Jersey Constitution, is available for free from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. Contact 1-800-FREELAW or www.njsbf.org to request copies for your class. The order form is also available [online](#).

Social Studies Issues

Christie's Education Agenda. Watch for updates as legislation regarding tenure, charter schools and teacher evaluation work their way through the legislature. We'll send copies or summaries of bills.

Required Middle School Civics Course. Nothing is going to happen in New Jersey without the support of Governor Christie. Send a letter to the governor (State House, P.O. Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625) and Commissioner Cerf (100 Riverview Plaza, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, 08625-0500) as well as emailing Sen. Kean (senkean@njleg.org), [Assemblyman Diegnan \(smdiegnan@njleg.org\)](mailto:Assemblyman_Diegnan_smdiegnan@njleg.org) and/or your local state legislator (go to www.njleg.state.nj.us for a listing) to tell them that every New Jersey student deserves to have a civics class. Remind your legislators that creating citizens with the knowledge, skills and desire to participate in a democratic society is the very purpose for which public schools were established. A healthy democracy depends on the participation of citizens, and that participation is learned behavior. Help to get social studies back in the classroom. Contact me at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu or 848-445-3413 with any questions or if you'd like any additional information.

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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.

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