NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

Spring 2012

<u>Professional Development</u> • <u>Student Events</u> • <u>Resources for Teachers</u> • <u>Social Studies Issues</u>

Social Studies Issues

Education Reform. If Governor Christie has his way, we may have new requirements for tenure and teacher evaluation, as well as new high school graduation requirements. Both political parties agree on the concepts, if not the details. S-2925, "Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for Children of NJ," introduced by Sen. Ruiz (D-Essex), provides for a streamlined process to remove a tenured teacher after two years of bad evaluations. Teachers who currently have tenure would be exempted. The real key is in the evaluation process. A new evaluation system, which includes learning outcomes such as progress on objective assessments such as NJ ASK or locally determined criteria for untested subjects as well as observations, is being piloted in ten districts in 2012. If you would like to make your views about these education reforms known to your state legislator, go to www.nileg.state.ni.us/ or contact Acting Education Commissioner Cerf at (609) 292-4450, fax (609) 777-4099.

Social Studies and the Common Core. The face of education in New Jersey may look significantly different as the new state social studies standards (http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/) and the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy (http://www.corestandards.org/) become the basis for teaching social studies in 2012. The common core standards set requirements not only for English language arts but also for literacy in social studies, science and technical subjects. Reading, writing, listening and presentation skills are to be practiced through the content of social studies and other subjects. At least half of elementary grade level reading is to be non-fiction. This increases to 55% by eighth grade and 70% in high school. This is where change is going to happen. Social studies teachers and supervisors need to take the lead and reach out to language arts teachers, supervisors and directors of curriculum and instruction. A voluntary model curriculum is being developed for high school social studies by the NJ Department of Education. In addition, a group of social studies supervisors is working together to develop a coherent K-8 social studies scope and sequence that will meet common core and state social studies and provide ideas and resources for engaging learning activities and assessments.

Civics as bully prevention. Have you had your students consider the difference between power and authority? Or that bullies have no authority and exercise power by intimidating others who may be less strong? Does this sound like *Lord of the Flies*? Isn't this why we have rules and authority? Perhaps we can prevent bullying by teaching basic civic concepts. Perhaps that's what's been missing. Even young children can understand the concepts of fairness, authority and responsibility. You may want to consider using some of the *Foundations of Democracy* materials, which are available starting with big books for kindergarten through high school at http://store.civiced.org. The NJ Center for Civic Education also offers in-service workshops for grades K-12 demonstrating how to integrate concepts of fairness, authority and responsibility with children's literature in discussions that just might help to prevent bullying. Email civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu.

NJ Council for the Social Studies

The next meeting of the **New Jersey Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)** will be held on Thursday, **June 7 2012**, at Rutgers University, Busch Campus Center, 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 attached and may be found at the NJCSS website, http://www.njcss.org. Every social studies teacher and supervisor in the state should be a member. The membership and conference fee is \$75 for 2012-13. Membership alone is \$25.

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

The next NJSSSA meeting will be held at NJPSA, 12 Centre Dr., Monroe, on May 17, 2012. The focus is geography. To register for the meeting, go to http://tinyurl.com/74qveoo. Joint NJCSS/NJSSSA membership is \$40. Joint membership and conference fee is \$90.

Student Events

The National Council for the Social Studies has proudly introduced Rho Kappa, the National Social Studies Honor Society for high school students. 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. For more information, go to http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org.

Send a digital portfolio of a class project from grades 3-12 to the annual *Project Citizen Showcase*. If you have many class projects, do a local showcase and send the best project! The project should be something that students have worked on this year. The portfolio may be in any digital format: a powerpoint, Photostory, a website, a DVD, a movie using Movie Maker or other software, Live Binders, or any other type of computer-based program. The digital portfolio should identify: the problem selected and why it was selected; alternative policies; the policy selected and why; an action plan; and student reflections about the process and what was learned. See attached rubrics. Limit: 10 minutes of video or movie footage or 25 slides, binders or other page-type formats. 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 portfolio. Project portfolios will be accepted through May 31, 2012. But don't wait: you can send your class project as soon as it is completed.

More than 100 middle school students competed in the **New Jersey Geography Bee** held on Friday March 30 at Rowan University. An eighth-grade student at Crossroads North Middle School in Monmouth Junction, won by answering questions such as: what was the most recent country to join the Eurozone? (The answer is Estonia.) To see full results of the competition, go to http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2012/03/monmouth_junction_student_sidd.html.

East Brunswick High School students, representing New Jersey at the 25th Annual National *We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution* High School Competition, placed in the top ten out of 56 participating schools from every state the District of Columbia and territories. Lincoln High School from Portland, Oregon, won this year's competition. The 2012-2013 New Jersey State *We the People* High School competition will be held on February 4, 2013. Consider observing the event or preparing your students to compete! For more information contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu.

More than 1000 students from across the country participated in the annual **First Amendment Cartoon Contest** sponsored by the **Constitutional Rights Foundation**. The theme of this year's contest was Free Expression through the "rights of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." There was one winner and five honorable mentions for elementary, middle and high school cartoons and cartoon strips. Congratulations to the student from Mt. Hebron Middle School in Montclair, NJ, who was one of the honorable mentions!

The College of New Jersey offers pre-college summer programs, which include a **Model United Nations** component, geared toward rising high school juniors and seniors (exceptional sophomores may also apply). Students will earn college credit, learn a variety of approaches to better understand world affairs, and then apply that knowledge in a Model UN conference. The program also includes a trip to the UN in New York City. For further information go to http://summerun.pages.tcnj.edu/

Freedoms Foundation 2012 Summer Leadership. Nominate your best high school students for this week-long summer leadership and citizenship experience, *Service Learning in Public Policy*, which will be held at Valley Forge, PA, **July 8-13**, 2012. For additional information go to http://www.freedomsfoundation.org/slipp-main.cfm?utm_source=SLiPP--Teacher+Nominators--JLSR&utm_campaign=SLiPP+alumni&utm_medium=email

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. Plan now for next year!

Back to top

Professional Development

The **American Labor Museum** in Haledon, NJ, is hosting many different events during the spring months including lectures and music. For additional information go to http://www.labormuseum.net/ or call 973-595-7953.

The Council for Economic Education is offering free workshops to be held at its National Center, 122 East 42nd Street, Suite 2600, New York City: 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. A special summer workshop, "Economics is no longer a Dismal Science: Learn how to teach economics through TV, songs, sports, and games," will be offered at Rutgers University on July 25, 2012. To register for the summer workshop contact Doug Young at dyoung@councilforeconed.org.

New Jersey history and social studies teachers can learn by doing and earn 3 professional development hours by participating in the **Spirit of the Jersey's History Fair** at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, NJ, on **Saturday, May 12** from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Activities include military encampments and displays on the Revolutionary, Civil, WWI and WWII time periods; period music and crafts; living history demonstrations; historic character portrayals; and exhibits by historical societies and museums. New Jersey State Historic Sites, most of which offer free school tours and programs, will be available with information. The fair will be held rain or shine. Admission is FREE. Parking is \$5 per vehicle. For more information, visit www.njhistoryfair.org.

Visualizing Asia in the Modern World, a conference on image-driven scholarship jointly sponsored by M.I.T., Princeton University, The Council of the Humanities and The Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, will be held May11-12. This is the third in a series of academic conferences devoted to "image-driven scholarship" and teaching about Asia in the modern world. All conference sessions are free and open to public. Go to http://www.visualizingasia.com/contact/ to register.

Teaching with Primary Sources. A basic program about teaching with primary sources will be held online **Wednesdays**, **May 23-June 20**, **1:00-2:00** or **5:30-6:30 p.m.** TPS:BASICS is designed specifically for educational leaders to participate in five one-hour voice chat discussion sessions, and, working individually and in collaboration with fellow participants, to develop inquiry-based learning activities to share with their local colleagues. Participants will receive a certificate of completion after fifteen hours. For additional information go to https://tps.waynesburg.edu/tpseasternregion/events. To register online go to https://tps.waynesburg.edu/tpseasternregion/events. To register online go to https://tps.waynesburg.edu/tpseasternregion/events.

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

Exploring Humanitarian Law Summer Institute will be held **June 25-28** at the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., offering educators hands-on experience with the EHL curriculum, and enabling them to teach respect for human life and dignity, ethical judgment, global citizenship, the protections of the Geneva Conventions and the role of humanitarian organizations. A \$150 registration fee includes an EHL curriculum kit, supplementary resources needed for the workshop, meals and snacks. The registration deadline is **May 4.** Register online at <u>Exploring Humanitarian Law Summer Institute for Educators 2012</u>. A limited number of <u>scholarships</u>, up to \$600, are available to help offset part of the cost. Contact Phebean Cole at (202) 303-5224 or Phebean.cole@redcross.org with any questions.

The **National Archives and Records Administration** (NARA) is offering 2012 summer institutes for educators, "Primarily Teaching: Original Documents and Classroom Strategies," at seven of the agency's locations. The institutes are designed to provide access to the rich resources of the National Archives for educators at the upper elementary, secondary, and college levels. Participants will learn how to research historical records, create classroom materials based on the records, and present documents in ways that sharpen students' skills and enthusiasm for history, government, and the other humanities. Go to http://historycoalition.org/2012/04/30/national-archives-seeking-applicants-for-summer-institutes/ for more information.

A **STUDY CANADA** Summer Institute for K-12 educators will be held **July 2-7**. Earn three university quarter credits or 40 hours as you learn about Canada, its capital, and the distinct cultures that have formed the second largest nation in the world. A \$600 registration fee is due with registration. This includes all course fees, classroom instruction, 5 nights' accommodation, 2 dinners, resource materials and Ottawa-Montréal transportation. Travel to Ottawa is **not** included. Travel Awards/Scholarships are available: check your eligibility. Visit http://www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.html for more details.

C-SPAN's 2012 Summer Educators' Conference will be held **July 12-13** at C-SPAN's headquarters in Washington, DC. Airfare to and from Washington, two nights' hotel stay, and meals during the conference are provided by C-SPAN. If you are a C-SPAN Classroom member and have not attended a previous conference, apply for this professional development experience. For additional information and the application go to http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/Teacher-Opportunities.aspx.

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 can 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 can be found at www.geeo.org or by calling 1-877-600-0105.

Coming Attractions for Fall 2012: SAVE THE DATES

NJCSS Annual Conference on Wednesday, October 24, 2012.

Teaching with Primary Sources workshop. With support from the Library of Congress, the New Jersey Center for Civic Education and the History Dept. of Montclair University are offering a one-day workshop for grade 3-12 teachers. The workshop will be held on **October 30, 2012** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. It will demonstrate hands-on activities to help teachers understand how to access the vast array of maps, documents, audio, video, and other materials available online at the Library of Congress and other websites and how to integrate these resources into exciting evidence-based classroom learning. For additional information contact Marci at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu or 848-445-3413. Save the date! Registration information will follow in the next newsletter.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution offers classroom materials for grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 that integrate U.S. history, government and political philosophy with critical thinking activities, including a simulated legislative hearing process that improves student writing and speaking skills. The curriculum enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy and the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. A workshop demonstrating the We the People materials and approaches, and correlations with common core and state standards, will be held at Rutgers University, Busch Campus Center in Piscataway, for grade 3-12 teachers on November 28, 2012. For additional information contact Marci at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu or 848-445-3413. Registration information will follow in the next newsletter.

Project Citizen is a process-based program that helps students to understand public policy by identifying a local public policy problem, researching the problem, identifying possible alternative solutions, selecting the solution that is both constitutional and best meets the problem, and developing an action plan for getting their solution implemented. It is an across-the–curriculum project approach that is both service learning and civic education and offers a performance assessment for state and common core standards. Click to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from last year's **Project Citizen Showcase**. A workshop will be held at Rutgers University, Busch Campus Center in Piscataway for grades 3-12 teachers on **December 5, 2012**. For additional information contact Marci at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu or 848-445-3413. Registration information will follow in the next newsletter. Mark your calendar!

Resources for Teachers

Teachers College at Columbia University has developed a curriculum about the federal budget, national debt and budget deficit, "Understanding Fiscal Responsibility" (UFR). Organized around the overarching question: "How should we address our nation's fiscal challenges today and in the future in a manner that is consistent with our values and traditions?," the goal of the UFR curriculum is to prepare students to address these issues in all of their complexities so that, as adults, they can make informed and independent assessments. The UFR curriculum, which may be used with U.S. history, civics, global issues or math, can be found at http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/. Web resources to compliment the curriculum can be found at http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/. Web resources to compliment the curriculum can be found at http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/. Web resources to compliment the curriculum can be found at http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/. Web resources to compliment the curriculum can be found at http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/. Web resources to compliment the curriculum can be found at http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/. Web resources to compliment the curriculum can be found at http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/. Web resources to compliment the curriculum can be found at http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/.

The **Constitutional Rights Foundation** has free online lessons, including America's Economic Crisis, 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.html.

C-SPAN Classroom is a free membership service to help social studies teachers enhance their teaching through C-SPAN's primary source programming and websites. The site is password-protected, yet remains free of charge. Membership gives educators access to their own library to store C-SPAN Classroom videos and video clips, supplementary materials such as lesson plans and handouts, and special offers like C-SPAN's American Presidents Timeline poster. Go to http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/About.aspx for more information.

Have your students learn history by doing it! *Conflict Resolution and United States History* provides rich historical background, multiple perspectives, problem-solving skills and primary source materials to engage your students in understanding the complexity of decision-making by individuals and groups in history. The materials are for grade 5-12 teachers and include a printed text; a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and power points for 20 case studies of conflicts in American history from the colonial period through the 1990s; and a DVD showing middle and high school students engaged in resolving historical conflicts. Go to http://civiced.rutgers.edu/CONFLICT/overview.shtml for a sample lesson, 4-minute video, teacher comments and an order form, or contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu with any questions.

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/eni/ or http://njdigitalhighway.org/eni/ or http://njdigitalhighway.org/educators.php.

iCivics is a web-based civics program initiated by retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for upper elementary and middle school students at http://www.icivics.org. 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. Players make choices about their party, platform, vice-president, and where to fundraise, poll, and spend their campaign dollars as they strive for 270 electoral votes. The game is available at http://www.icivics.org/games/win-white-house. You also can now download iCivics' *Pocket Law Firm* free iPad app by going to http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pocket-law-firm/id504300118?mt=8&uo=4. It won't stay free forever, so download it now and start vindicating rights while learning the Bill of Rights.

Teach K-4 environmental literacy with *The Nest Seekers*, by Chris Bickel at Livingston High School, NJ. The book tells the tale of a real Earthwatch Expedition to the Grand Tetons in Wyoming which is searching for the nests of the American Robin, Yellow Warbler, Black headed Grosbeak, and Song Sparrow, to determine the reasons for their decline. The scientists are outwitted by the birds culminating in a very funny, yet appropriate ending. Go to https://sites.google.com/site/nestseekersguide/

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. The cost is \$35 per seminar. Contact ckoplik@nationalhumanitiescenter.org. or go to www.irex.org/application/teachers-global-classrooms-application-tgc

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 from CQ Press on Amazon. Professor Rosenthal has written extensively about state legislatures, but his new book is about how governors exercise leadership to achieve their policy goals. The book draws on responses to a survey of former governors and personal interviews with former governors, as well as biographies and memoirs to examine governors in the fifty states from 1980 through 2010.

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.

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.

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