NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

Summer 2012

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

NJ Council for the Social Studies

Time or renew your membership, or to become a member of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)

Officer and directors:

Visit the new twitter account for NJCSS at https://twitter.com/NJCSSNetwork to follow topics of interest to social studies.

The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies can now be found on your favorite social media sites! "Follow Us" on our Twitter feed: twitter.com/njcssnetwork, "Like Us" on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NJCSSNetwork, and "Subscribe" to our Tumblr blog: njcssnetwork.tumblr.com/. It only takes a second to follow! Don't forget to spread the word to your colleagues!

Also, join the Social Studies Chat, sschat.ning.com/, a network dedicated to connecting social studies educators everywhere. This group was recently presented at the 2011 NCSS annual conference in Washington D.C.: tinyurl.com/8yb448a. Join the weekly live chats via Twitter Mondays at 7pm EST (Twitter hashtag: #SSCHAT).

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. 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.

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NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

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.

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/

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!

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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 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.

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

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.

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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@niclre.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.

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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. Take advantage of the SUMMER SALE.

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://njdigit

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.

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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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