

THE ACADEMY FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION

AT THE SAGE COLLEGES



12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON CHARACTER EDUCATION TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2011 AT THE ALBANY CAMPUS OF THE SAGE COLLEGES– DON'T MISS OUT!

Conference Theme:

Dignity For All Students:

Character Education Paves the Pathway for The Supportive Learning Environment Students Need to Succeed!

The Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges is pleased to invite you to participate in our 12th Northeastern United States Conference on Character Education. Held on the campus at The Sage College of Albany on Wednesday, November 2, 2011. The theme refers to the DASA legislation which goes into effect on July 1, 2012. Information about this act can be found at: <http://www.nyclu.org/issues/lgbt-rights/dignity-all-students-act>.

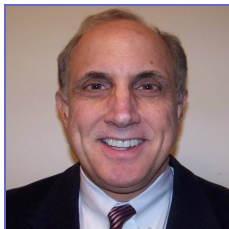


The conference is co-sponsored by the Capital Region BOCES and features nationally recognized keynote speakers and breakout sessions which provide hands on materials that can be applied to the school or classroom environment. Included for 2011 are featured presentations by Dr. Steve Birchak ("Character Based Strategies to Neutralize Bullying,"), National School of Character Award winning Principal Phil Catania ("Lessons in Performance Character and Curriculum Building"), Former New York State Assistant Commissioner of Education Dr. Bruce Crowder and Scott Crowder, Education Vista's, Inc. CEO ("Using Data Profiling Strategies to Enhance Character and Dignity in Student Behavior"), Jesse Saperstein, author of *Atypical: Life with Asperger's*. Jesse is funny, irreverent and ultimately forgiving. Laura Sahr, Dignity Act Coordinator, and John Fredrick, Legislative Coordinator, from Commissioner John King's Office will discuss implementation of DASA and its relationship to character education. To enable more educators to attend the conference registration fee has been lowered to \$99 and is all inclusive.

Our partner, Capital Region BOCES, **provides online registration** at <http://capregboces.org/InstructionalServices/Workshops.cfm>, funding support for CoSer school districts and In-Service credit hour certification. As more details are released this information will be available on The Academy's web site: www.sage.edu/centers/charactered.

If you have any questions please contact The Academy at (518)244-2336 or email walkoj@sage.edu.

Pictured at below: Dr. Steve Birchak, Mr. Phil Catania, Dr. Bruce Crowder, Mr. Jesse Saperstein.



October 2011 2nd Annual Anti-Bullying Awareness Month
Theme: "STAND UP FOR CHARACTER– DOWN TO BULLYING"

Our Annual conference is preceded by the **2nd Annual Anti-Bullying Awareness Month in October 2011: "STAND UP FOR CHARACTER-DOWN TO BULLYING"**. This is coordinated in conjunction with the National Bullying Prevention month initiative and chaired by Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino and Cohoes Mayor John McDonald III. The Academy web-site contains an extensive list of **resources** which educators can use in planning appropriate activities. All classrooms/ schools are urged to plan a project that emphasizes bullying prevention. Each project registered with The Academy will be listed on our website. Each month we will feature one of these projects!

STAND UP FOR CHARACTER: THE JOURNAL OF THE ACADEMY FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION AT THE SAGE COLLEGES

Volume 6, Issue 1
Fall 2011

Editor Dr. John D. Walko
 Assoc.Ed. Rebecca Stewart
 Assist. Ed. Mel Horowitz
 Assist. Ed. Dr. Philip Fusco
 Assist. Gina Wyatt

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Details will be found on The Academy's web site. www.sage.edu/centers/charactered

See Website Community and School Anti Bullying Proclamations!

Conference Highlights

See website for details and additional breakouts

Featured Presenters:

Phil Catania– Motivational Speaker Award Winning Principal from Maryland, "Performance Character and Curriculum Strategies from a National School of Character Principal"

Jesse Saperstein– Author of Atypical: Life With Asperger's and Motivational Speaker, "Overcoming Bullying and Chronic Rejection."

Dr. Steve Birchak- College of St. Rose: Author and Motivational Speaker, "Character Development and Bullying"

Dr. Bruce Crowder and Mr. Scott Crowder Educational Vistas, "Using Data Profiling to Develop Your School Climate and Academics"

Presenters Include:

Service Learning The Pathway to Creating a Culture of Empathy– Chatham Middle School. 2011 National School of Character

Implementing Core Values at The Building Level to Support a School Culture that Models Good Character. Wolcott Street School, Leroy, New York

The Character Initiative at Walnut Street School, featuring Anti-Bullying Strategies and The Mentoring Alternative. 2011 National School of Character

The Dignity for All Students Act: Sharing Plans to Implement the law and discuss its relationship to Character Education. NYS Education Dept

Be a Good Sport; The Advancement of Character Education through Sport and Physical Education

Building a Character Based Supportive Learning Environment: Take Home Strategies to Confront Challenges to Changing School Culture: A Panel Discussion by NYS School Of Character winners

Sense and Civility: The Framework for making "Dignity for All Students" work.

Essentials for Creating a School of Character, Van Schaick Island School. NY S School of Character

The "Allies" Project (Eradicating Discrimination)

Lighting the Fire Within: Act With Respect Always

South Colonie Middle School's Answer to Bullying

Conflict is Essential- Combat is Optional: Discipline and Dignity

*Schedule subject to change



Recognizing our 2011 State and National Schools of Character!



Achievement in character education comes with hard work and dedication. The Academy for Character Education has the honor and privilege to present our three State Schools of Character, along with two National Schools of Character. **Van Schaick Grade School, of Cohoes, NY, Walnut Street School of Uniondale, NY, and Chatham Middle School of Chatham, NY** all received the esteemed honor of being a New York State School of Character! In addition, Walnut Street School and Chatham Middle School were also recognized as National Schools of Character this Spring! All were recognized at our Champions of Character Awards and Banquet in April.

(See page 8 for a complete list of 2011 recipients!)

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER AWARDS PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

DR. PHILIP FUSCO
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges, in collaboration with the National Character Education Partnership, has been designated as the agency responsible for the New York State Schools of Character awards program and selecting of the New York State Schools of Character (NYSSOC). The NYSSOC program recognizes schools or districts that excel in exemplifying **The 11 Principles of Effective Character Education** and demonstrate an outstanding character education initiative that yields positive results in student behavior, school climate and academic performance. Applications are due by December 1, 2011. The NYSSOC winners will be announced at the annual **Champions of Character Awards Banquet** to be held at the **Franklin Plaza** located in **Troy, NY** on Tuesday, April 3, 2012. Awardees may be eligible to advance to the National School of Character (NSOC) selection as a national finalist.

As of 2011, a school/district holds its NYSSOC designation for three years beginning the year it is first awarded.

10TH NORTHEAST YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER SUMMIT TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

Youth leaders will have the opportunity to implement character based improvements in their schools throughout the school year. These will be developed at the Youth Leadership Summit in December. The Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges in Troy will follow-up with each school after The Summit to provide encouragement and direction and instruction throughout the year. Teams will develop an action plan to address issues in school climate and the enhancement of academic excellence. Students from Cohoes Middle School will coordinate this event.

The 2011 Summit will focus upon a "Dignity for All Students" theme. The AMAZING Keynote Presentation will be a performance by the **Passing the Torch Through the Arts** production company whose motto is **Theater+ Positive Action = Social Change.**

Planning: Please begin planning now for team membership. Some schools last year brought a 10-person middle school team AND a 10-person high school team. Some schools brought a 10-member team that was MS and HS combined. We have learned from experience that it is very valuable to include parents and/or community members as they help out in ways you may not think of, to the benefit of all! You decide what is best for your school and/or district.

Funding: You will not find a conference that is a better bargain for your money in our area!!!! Begin to make contacts to generate the funds to bring your team...\$279 for a team of 10 and \$25 each additional person over 10.

Ideas for obtaining funding contact your PTA/PTO, local service organizations (Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.), or have students plan and lead a fundraiser!

Are you bringing a team this year?

For information, please contact: Carolyn Kay Bradley, Coordinator, 10th Northeast US Youth Character Education & Leadership Summit, Academy for Character Education, The Sage Colleges at Troy (cbradley9@nycap.rr.com)



Walnut Street School Named “National School of Character”

Linda Friedman, Principal

Walnut Street School (WSS) is proud to be recognized as a 2011 New York State School of Character and a National School of Character. WSS's Character Education Program began seven years ago as the result of community concerns over an increase in gang violence. Since then, our program has grown into a way of life for our school. Our mission is to “educate each student academically, socially and emotionally in an atmosphere that promotes positive character development.” Our integrated curriculum emphasizes the pillars of respect, responsibility, friendship and honesty in an effort to help our students become more caring, ethical and responsible citizens. These pillars were selected as the result of a survey completed by the school community. Our Students of Character Program focuses on encouraging intrinsic motivation over extrinsic motivators. School-wide and grade level service learning projects are integrated into the curriculum at each grade level. Our touchstone states “At WSS We Are Family” which is exemplified by our mentoring initiatives that involve over 50 teachers, staff and community members in supporting students and their families. In 2010 we received the Promising Practices Award from the Character Education Partnership for this, a distinguishable feature of our program.

Mentoring programs at WSS are an integral part of our character education program. Mentors act as role models giving students opportunities to develop and demonstrate the pillars of respect, responsibility, friendship and trust through one-on-one interactions. Mentees portray responsibility by meeting with their mentors weekly. Friendships continue to develop beyond the school setting through trips to museums, theatrical performances and a day at the circus. Mentors attend school events like concerts and basketball games. As the friendships between the mentors and mentees evolve, the trust between them develops as

well. The relationships they form help to foster a caring school community.

Walnut Street School (WSS) has two mentoring programs in place. Students participate in both the L.I.K.E. (Lawyers Involved in Kids' Education) and the F.O.C.U.S. (Focusing on Children Uniting with Staff) mentoring programs. The mission of both programs is to positively impact the lives of elementary students by providing opportunities for them to develop good character, social skills, friendship, positive self-esteem and career awareness. Both programs are led by two Mentoring Coordinators and a Mentoring Advisory Board consisting of the coordinators, mentors (from both programs), administrators, parents and a representative from the Mentoring Partnership of Long Island, who assists in training the mentors and coordinators and advising on how best to manage the programs to achieve success.

In the L.I.K.E. program, fifteen attorneys meet with fifteen fourth and fifth grade students as a one-on-one pair weekly during their lunch and recess time. During these sessions, the matches eat lunch together and learn about each other's lives through conversation. During the second half of each session, the mentors and mentees come together to play word games in groups. In the F.O.C.U.S. mentoring program, thirty-eight teachers and support staff members are paired individually with a third, fourth or fifth grade student. They meet for one hour a week before, during or after school. The mentor-mentee matches eat lunch together, share conversation, play games or do special projects together.

When asked about their favorite aspect of being a mentee, two students responded, “My mentor's actions changed me and influenced me to share” and “my favorite thing about mentoring is how my mentor cares about me and me about him.”



Walnut Street School, Uniondale School District,
at the Sweet Hills Riding Farm

Celebrate 2012's award winners!

PLAN TO ATTEND the “Champions of Character”

**Awards Banquet on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at
Franklin Plaza, Troy, NY**

To join the **Honorary Committee** or to **make a reservation** contact The Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges. **Nominations** for teachers, students, parents, administrators, and business and community organizations are due by

November 7, 2011

<http://www.sage.edu/centers/charactered/>

for nomination form

Chatham Middle School Named "National School of Character"

Gordon Fitting, Principal

Chatham Middle School has been named a 2011 National School of Character; one of the highest awards a school can receive for achievement in character education.

"I feel really proud of our school," said eighth grader Cassidy Flanagan, president of the school's P.E.A.C.E. (Promoters, Educators and Advocates of Character Education) Club, a group of students who promote character-building activities throughout the school. "It was the kids and staff who won this award. We put so much effort into this and it feels great that we won."

CMS is one of only two schools from New York State and one of forty schools nationwide to receive this prestigious award. The school underwent a stringent assessment process and was visited by a national judge in April, who interviewed students and staff about the school.

As part of the award, offered by the Character Education Partnership, Chatham Middle School will be honored this October at the National Forum on Character Education in San Francisco. The award includes a \$1,000 grant, which will be used to further improve and implement character education at the Middle School. As an official National School of Character, CMS will also serve as a model school and mentor to other educators to help them transform their school cultures and improve academics and behavior.

The Middle School's Character Education Committee oversees and suggests implementation of character building programs. CMS staff are continually adding or developing programs like peer mediation, tutoring, mentoring, student clubs, and over the past few years, service learning.

"I think our service learning program played a large part of our getting this award," said sixth grade English teacher Debby Roth.

Service learning, integrated into the curriculum, provides students with opportunities that enhance their learning and makes connections with their studies through helping others. Activities include honoring local veterans, donating to the local animal shelters, baking bread for charity, or even just simply visiting elderly neighbors at the nursing home.

"Service learning helps students learn empathy, develop a better understanding of others and of the larger world, and it builds pride," continued Roth. "A lot of students have gone out and continued participating in service learning with community groups and organizations on their own. This has inspired some of the adults to also become involved."

The National School of Character designation follows a long list of awards recognizing Chatham Middle School's Character Education Program. In March, 2011 Chatham Middle School was named "New York State School of Character for 2011-2014" for a second year in a row. Previously, CMS was named the "#1 School of Character in NY State" in 2010, a "School Committed to Promising Practices" in 2009, and "Champions of Character" in 2008. These awards were provided by the Academy for Character Education at the Sage Colleges, in conjunction with the Character Education Partnership.

"I think this award brings external validation to something we've always known is in this building and these students," said Principal Gordon Fitting. "It's a good feeling for both the students and the staff to get an award of this magnitude."



**Please Pass
This Journal On!**

Share with Leadership/Curriculum Teams
Administrators/Principals
School Staff



Chatham Middle School Students at their NYS Assembly Visit

Celebrates 10th Year!



*Fieldtrip to Pioneer Bank, in Troy, NY
Pioneer Bank is one of our sponsors and neighbors.*

**Sharon Domine -Co-Teacher
and Graduate Assistant at the Academy**

This year’s summer camp was designed as a character-based integrated and cooperative learning experience. The majority of the students in the camp will be entering the 1st and 2nd grades in the fall. They are emergent language and literacy learners, as such; the character-based lessons focused on developing literacy skills. The older students, those entering 3rd and 4th grades in the fall, were provided more advanced instruction appropriate to their reading and writing levels. The older students also served as mentors to the younger students during lessons and writing assignments. Overall the students were engaged in the lessons and creative in their work. They developed a strong understanding of character education traits, developed their literacy skills, and learned about fiscal responsibility.

An author residency program sponsored by Living Resources/ Traumatic Brain Injury survivors was included in the summer camp to provide students with the needed life-long skills of critical thinking, team work, and public speaking. The students collaborated and worked on two books based on student interest. The topics included kickball and summer vacation. The topics chosen resulted from a brainstorming process that continued to the writing and editing process and finally to produce the finished

product. In addition to being published authors, the students collaborated and wrote a character education song with WGNA radio personality Richie Phillips. As part of the Reading, Writing, and Rhyming program with Mr. Phillips the students demonstrated their literacy and rhyming skills in the creation of their song.

The student’s also participated in three field trips to broaden their experience and add to their wealth of knowledge. The annual trip to the National Museum of Dance and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center to see the ballet provided students with the opportunity to experience dance and to have fun while doing so. The Dancing with the Stars exhibit, the new interactive playroom, and the Michael Jackson tribute exhibit were favorites and enjoyed by all. The students learned that through hard work and determination they too could succeed in life. The next field trip to Pioneer Bank allowed the students to tour the bank and to see and learn how bank employees interact with their customers and the public. Students learned that fiscal responsibility entails saving, delaying gratification, and making sound decisions. Students also learned how customer service and honesty are very important, not only in the banking industry, but also in life. The final field trip for the summer camp brought the students to Hannaford Supermarket in North Troy. The students learned about how to eat healthy, using the Guiding Stars program, and during their tour they learned about various foods and how they are made or their country of origin.

For information about this and other Academy programs, please contact us at (518)244-2336 or see our website at www.sage.edu/centers/charactered

STOP
Bullying and Harassment
DEVELOP
Caring School Climate and Academic Excellence
ATTEND
The 12th Annual Conference for
Character Education

Spotlight:

Community Advisory Board, Chairperson

Jim McGlynn is Vice President and Municipal Accounts Officer for Pioneer Commercial Bank with over 30 years experience in municipal & commercial banking. Jim is also Director of Small Business Development for Pioneer Bank. He is involved with numerous community organizations, including the Academy of Character Education, the Green Island Senior Citizens, the Government Finance Officers' Association, NYS Association of School Business Officials, and Rensselaer County Friends of Hospice, the Rensselaer County Chamber of Commerce, the Albany/Colonie Chamber of Commerce and the Tech Valley Nonprofit Business Counsel.



A lifelong Capital Region resident who lives in Slingerlands, Jim is married and has five children and one grandchild. He enjoys many hobbies including golf, reading mysteries, evening walks and time with family and friends. As a cancer survivor, Jim believes "life is beautiful!"

Regarding his involvement with the Academy for Character Education, Jim says he believes in the Academy's mission and goals. Pioneer Bank has been a major supporter of the Academy for several years, most notably sponsoring the summer program. "Working for a community bank that truly strives to be a good corporate neighbor is in line with my values", Jim says.

He has long been interested in bridging the gap between business and academics. Jim believes that "Character and ethics should be at the core of everyone's existence, whether it is considered "religion" or simply a social value system. People are generally happier when they are respectful and helpful to others."

In June of this year, Jim took on the role of Chair for the Community Advisory Board at the Academy. We look forward to working with Jim in the future and are pleased to have him be a part of the Academy here at Sage!



Spotlight :

Leadership Advisory Board Member

Raeann Mokey has worn many hats throughout her career. She has worked in Early Childhood Education, Early Intervention with Albany County, as Director of Child Care, and most currently as a Special Education and Reading Teacher in the Cohoes School District. Raeann is also the proud mother of three sons and has been married for 32 years.

After attending the Academy's Annual Conference on Character Education, Raeann became inspired to join in the Academy's efforts, and also became a member of the Academy for Character Education Leadership Advisory Board.

"I believe that teaching social skills is an integral part of the delivery of instruction. My parents instilled in me a belief system that has taught me to live by the Golden Rule - 'Do unto others as you will have others do unto you' and you will succeed. As an educator, I have found that weaving character education into the academic curriculum has been the perfect match in helping students to become 'good people of character'."

Raeann is very proactive in her approach to bringing character education to her school district. Actively involved in home, community and school-wide initiatives to promote character development, "Incorporating character education into the daily academic curriculum has become a priority at Van Schaick. By joining our Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS) and Character COUNTS programs, we have been able to create a more positive learning and working environment. The entire school community is expected to learn and follow the "3 B's"- Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible."

Raeann enthusiastically promoted Character Education, and was very pleased and proud that her school, Van Schaick Grade School was named a New York State School of Character for 2011!

We thank you, Raeann for your enthusiasm for Character Education and for being a part of the Academy!

Community Advisory Board Members

- Jim McGlynn**, Board Chair, Vice President, Pioneer Bank
- Kathy Pelham**, Director, Northeast NY United Way, **Secretary**
- David Brown** CEO/**Rayette Johnson**, Director, YMCA
- Justin E. Buchanan**, Vice President, HSBC Bank USA, NA
- Dr. Charles Dedrick**, Superintendent, Capital Region BOCES
- Matthew Duddy**, Vice President, Lamar Advertising
- George Goodwin**, Supt. of Schools, Lansingburgh CSD\
- Randy Hall**, Commissioner of Social Services, Rensselaer Country
- Thomas Hulihan**, Director of Planning and Program Development, Troy Housing Authority
- Kathleen Jimino**, County Executive, Rensselaer County
- Anthony Leva**, infrastructure technologies, Inc.
- Lynn Macan**, Superintendent, Cobleskill-Richmondville CSD
- John McDonald III**, Mayor, Cohoes
- Dr. Hanns Meissner**, CEO, The ARC of Rensselaer County
- Dr. Lori Quigley**, Dean, The Sage Colleges School of Education
- Dr. Ken Robin**, Senior Research Specialist, SUNYA
- James Whalen**, Attorney, Pioneer Bank

Education Leadership Board Members

- Nadine Cunningham**, West Sand Lake E.S., **Chair**
- Kathy Barlow**, Wildwood Programs
- Bonnie Misch**, Central Square CSD (retired), **Co-Secretary**
- Joan Monk**, Peter Pan Children's Foundation, **Co-Secretary**
- Lynn Arnold**
- Dr. Steve Birchak**, College of Saint Rose
- Kay Bradley**, Cohoes
- Peg Brady**, Ballston Spa CSD
- Kevin Buess**, Hudson Valley C.C
- Linda Brennan-Pagano**, Shenendehowa CSD
- Susan Cowan**, South Colonie CSD
- Maureen Flanigan**, Averill Park CSD
- Kathy Fuller**, HERSTORY
- Myles Goss**, Brunswick CSD
- Susan Grimmick**, Brunswick CSD
- CSD**
- Bernice Herbert**, The Sage Colleges
- Roseann Jackling**,
- Katrina Keith**, Cohoes CSD
- Josef Markowski**, New York State
- Raeanne Mokey**, Cohoes CSD
- Suzanne Myers**, Brunswick, CSD
- Vincent Porfrio**, The Sage Colleges
- Sheila Turevery**, Syracuse
- Karen Urbanski**, Rensselaer CSD
- Mary VanVliet**, Schodack CSD
- Bruce Wiener**, Berlin CSD
- Bill Wolfanger**, Cobleskill-Richmondville CSD
- Lora Yanulavich**, Capital Region BOCES
- Sharon Domine**, Student, Sage Graduate School of Education



The Path to a Positive School Culture: Utilizing the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education as a Framework for Success

Dr. Philip Fusco, Assistant Director
and Bonnie Misch, Program Consultant
at The Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges

With the return to civility on the national agenda, reports of bullying on the rise, academic testing at every level and new levels of accountability for teachers and administrators now is the time to reconsider how we think about school improvement. We at The Academy believe that schools fostering both academic excellence and ethics create positive school cultures that increase student performance (Davidson & Lickona, 2005).

Districts and schools have spent tremendous amounts of money on struggling schools. Funding has come from states, federal government, and private partnerships. Interventions generally target only a single aspect of improvement: learning standards, increased parent involvement, safety, etc.

The 11 Principles of Effective Character Education developed by the Character Education Partnership in Washington, D.C. is not a program but rather a framework in which schools and districts are able to fit the needs and uniqueness of their own situation. The Principles provide benchmarks and rubrics that assess areas such as parent and community involvement, promoting core values, challenging curriculum, staff as a learning community, student self motivation and more. The 11 Principles assess the integrated daily life of the school/district and together constitute an integrated approach to the development of a positive school culture that leads to academic success on the part of the students. By taking an integrated approach to planning a rationale can be made that allows for "comprehensive interventions" in the delivery of services for children. (Browne et al., 2004)

If following an integrated approach to improving school culture makes sense to you we invite you to contact The Academy. Contact The Academy by emailing Dr. Philip Fusco at fusco3@sage.edu. Each school/district has its unique dynamics. Like people its needs and goals are different. It cannot be emphasized enough that our approach is not a "one size fits all". The Academy believes each school profits by crafting it's own program and is committed to the unique understanding of each school/district that it collaborates with.

By utilizing the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education we will begin a conversation with you that starts with a preliminary assessment of your school/district culture. Using the survey results we can work with you to begin planning for professional development workshops for your staff to meet your needs that begin to emerge from the survey findings. The Academy's goal will be to initiate a collaborative mentoring relationship that will result in a character based positive school culture.

School PTO, sports booster clubs, local rotary clubs, and faith groups are encouraged to sponsor a member, a teacher or a delegation to the November 2nd conference

THE ACADEMY CALENDAR 2011-2012

October 2011-

STAND UP for CHARACTER– DOWN to BULLYING
Campaign

Wednesday, November 2, 2011-

12th Annual Northeast

United States Conference on Character
Education at Sage College of Albany

Monday, November 7, 2011-

Champions of Character Award Nominations Due

Thursday, December 1, 2011-

New York State Schools of Character
Applications Due

Thursday, December 1, 2011-

10th Annual Northeast U.S. Youth Character &
Leadership Summit
at Russell Sage College, Troy, NY

Tuesday, April 3, 2012-

9th Annual "Champions of Character" Banquet
at the Franklin Plaza in Troy, NY

July 2012-

11th Summer Program for Capital Region
Urban Students and Families

*Many Thanks to
Mr. Fred Erlich
as he retires from our
Community Advisory Board!*



*Left to Right: Dr. Philip Fusco, Dr. John Walko, Fred Erlich
Chairperson Jim McGlynn, Mel Horowitz*

The Academy for Character Education Partners:

*The Sage Colleges: Dr. Susan C. Scrimshaw, President;
Peter Hughes, Vice President and Treasurer; Dr. Lori
Quigley, Dean, School of Education: Dr. Connell Frazer,
Dean, Online Learning; Vincent Porfirio, Assistant Dean of
Students SCA; Jody Diedrich, Albany Campus Conference
Coordinator; Mo Schifley, Sodexo Campus Services*

*The Community Advisory Board, Jim McGlynn, Chair
The Educator Leadership Board, Nadine Cunningham, Chair*

*Rensselaer County: Kathy Jimino, County Executive;
Randy Hall, Commissioner of Social Services*

Mary Karpiak Foster (Lifetime Benefactor) RSC '42

Living Resources Corporation, Fred Erlich, CEO

Franklin Plaza, Troy, NY Michael A. Fusco, President

Capital Region BOCES Charles Dedrick, Superintendent

*Troy Housing Authority: Thomas Hulihan, Director of
Planning and Program Development; and Helen
Leppanen, Resident Services Coordinator*

Pioneer Bank Troy, NY: Eileen Bagnoli, President

HSBC Bank USA, N.A.

C.S.Architects

CDPHP

Richie Phillips, WGNA– Townsquare Media

Lamar Advertising: Matthew A. Duddy, Vice President

Capital Area School Development Assoc.

Greater Capital Region Teacher Center

Seton Health

Hilton Garden Inn, Albany

The Century House

National Professional Resources, Inc– www.NPRinc.com

Equinox Foundation

Character Education Partnership

Educational Vistas, Inc.—Scott Crowder, CEO

Stewarts Shoppes

Joan S. Monk

Durham School Services

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for your
continued support!

2011 Champions of Character Award Winners

EDUCATOR AWARDS

Teachers

Elementary: Barbara Place, Brittonkill
Jean Seaver, Averill Park
Ronnie Senez, Cohoes

Middle School: Maureen Pokal (Counselor), Guilder
land
Nancy Bolettieri, Mineola
Melissa Moskov, South Colonie

High School: Ward Dales, Albany

Teaching Team (all elementary)

Morning Program Committee, Broadalbin-
Perth ES

Administrators

Middle School
Steven Gilhuley, Malvern
Gordon Fitting, Chatham and Larry Burud, Chat
ham (team)

High School
Regina Agrusa, Floral Park
Jay Altobello, Central Square

Promising Character Initiatives

Manhattanville College School of Education's
"Changing
Suburbs Institute", Purchase, Westchester County
Anti-Bullying Committee, Round Hill ES, Washing-
tonville
Anti-Bullying Committee, East Greenbush (ES)
Leadership Development Program, Winchester ES,
West Seneca

Student Leaders

ShiAnne Vandenberg, Cohoes (MS)
Shauna Michael, Brittonkill (HS)
Tara Madrid and Rebekah Linthicum, Catskill (HS)

Character Education Support Staff Award
Deborah O'Mara, Central Square (HS)

Parent Organization

Castleton Elementary School PTO

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER AWARDS

2011 New York State Schools of Character
Walnut Street School, Uniondale, NY
Chatham Middle School, Chatham, NY
Van Schaick Grade School, Cohoes, NY

Honorable Mention

Wolcott Street School; Le Roy, N.Y.

Emerging Schools of Character

Turtle Hook Middle School; Uniondale, NY
Commack Road Elementary School; Islip, NY
Harrison Avenue Elementary School; South
Glens Falls, NY
Malta Avenue Elementary School; Ballston
Spa, NY
Midland Elementary School; Rye, NY

BUSINESS and CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Corporate Leadership Award

John Murray, Rose & Kiernan

Civic Leader Award

Dale Thuillez, Chairman and President of the
Tech Valley School Foundation

Community Organization Award

Sue Spivack, A Community Committee on
Respect and Diversity

SAGE COLLEGES CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER AWARDS

Larissa Stuts, Student Albany
Carly Bennett, Student Troy
Donna Hutchens, Staff
Don Richards, Administration
Martha Frank, Faculty

**CONTACT THE ACADEMY FOR
CHARACTER EDUCATION
AT THE SAGE COLLEGES
TO LEARN WHAT WE
HAVE IN COMMON**

Director, Dr. John Walko

walkoj@sage.edu

Associate Director, Mel Horowitz

horowm@sage.edu

Assistant Director, Dr. Philip Fusco

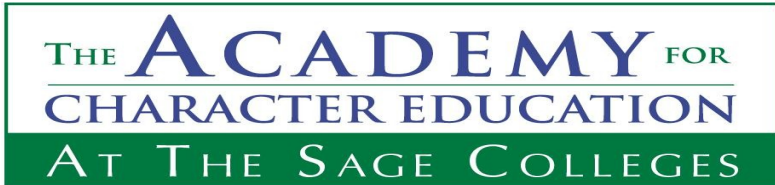
fuscop3@sage.edu

Phone: 518-244-2336

Fax: 518-244-2361

www.sage.edu/centers/charactered

*The Academy for Character Education is a voluntary, not for
profit organization whose mission is to promote character
education within schools and the greater community by raising
awareness, educating, motivating, and facilitating the infusion
and development of positive moral, performance, intellectual,
and civic character traits that become lifelong habits.*



“Become a Pillar of Character and a Friend or Partner of the Academy”
“Please lend a Hand to
Build Our Pyramid of Trust”!
-John D. Walko PhD, Director

Your thoughtful but small contribution will make a huge difference to the mission of the Academy to allow us to continue and to Build Our Pyramid Of Trust!

Last Name, First Name

Organization Position

Address

City, State Zip Code

Phone

“It is very heartening to see participants of The Academy’s programs enthusiastically take away knowledge, skills and strategies to help kids deal with life’s challenges in a caring and responsible way. Business and community leaders need to step up and help build on the outstanding programs of The Academy. When we all work together we can help develop a generation of good kids to lead our world.”

-Michelle Borba, Advisory Board, *Parenting Magazine*, International speaker, Author, *Building Moral Intelligence: The 7 Essential Virtues That Teach Kids to do the Right Thing, Don't Give Me That Attitude, and The Big Book of Parenting Solutions: 101 Answers to Your Everyday Challenges and Wildest Worries*

Champions of Character Levels of Support

I will become one of the “100 Pillars of Characters Needed to Build our Pyramid of Trust”.

Pillars of Characters will be recognized at the Champions of Character Banquet

Friend of The Academy \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$75.00 \$100.00

Academy Partner \$250.00 \$500.00 \$1000.00 \$5000.00 \$_____ other

I volunteer to donate my time/talent. Please contact me.

**Your Pledge
 Makes A
 Difference!**

SAFER SCHOOLS!

STRONGER ACADEMICS!

ROBUST COMMUNITIES!

Contributions should be sent to:
 The Academy for Character
 Education
 at The Sage Colleges
 65 First Street
 Troy, NY 12180
 518-244-2336
www.sage.edu/centers/charactered

