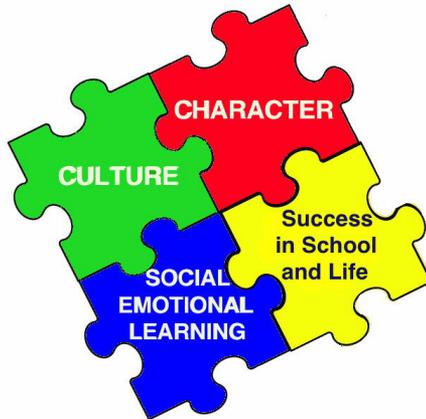


TWELFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: Character, Culture, and Social Emotional Learning”



Recognition of 2019 New Jersey Schools of Character
and New Jersey’s 2019 National Schools of Character

Keynote Panel and Breakout Sessions

May 31, 2019
Rider University
Lawrenceville, New Jersey



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Character, Culture, and SEL

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 7:30-8:15** REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS
Fine Arts Building, Yvonne Theater Lobby
- 8:15-9:30** RECOGNITION PROGRAM
2019 SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER
Yvonne Theater
- 9:45-10:00** INTRODUCTIONS AND BUSINESS MEETING
NJASECD Board of Trustees – Yvonne Theater
- 10:00-11:00** KEYNOTE PANEL / Q&A
Dr. Phil Brown, Dr. Kelly Williams, and
Anthony Trongone
Eileen Dachnowicz, Moderator
Yvonne Theater
- 11:15-12:00** BREAKOUT SESSION 1 - Presentations
Fine Arts Classrooms
(See schedule following)
- 12:00-12:45** LUNCH
Daly Dining Hall
- 1:00-1:45** BREAKOUT SESSION 2 – Presentations
Fine Arts Classrooms
(See schedule following)
- 2:00-2:45** BREAKOUT SESSION 3 – Presentations
Fine Arts Classrooms
(See schedule following)

2019 KEYNOTE PANELISTS

Dr. Phil Brown, NJASECD Founder and Past President



Philip M. Brown, Ph.D. is a Senior Consultant for the National School Climate Center and a Fellow, Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers University. Following 25 years managing student support services in the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education, he created and directed the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers to provide evidence for SECD approaches to school improvement. He founded the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development to continue this work and to serve as the national model for conducting the State Schools of Character program. He is the author and editor of numerous books and related publications

and serves on Character.org's Educational Advisory Committee and NSOC Leadership Council.

Dr. Kelly Williams, Director, Office of Student Support Services, NJ Department of Education

Dr. Kelly Williams currently serves as the Director of the Office of Student Support Services within the New Jersey Department of Education. In this role, Kelly oversees the state's safe and supportive school unit, NJ Tiered Systems of Supports, alternative schools, extended learning opportunities, student health, as well as social and emotional learning for more than 1.4 million New Jersey students.



Previously, Kelly has served in the capacities of director, school leader, department chairperson, school counselor, and teacher in a large urban school district. Kelly earned her Bachelor's Degree in Sports Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Doctoral Degree in Education Leadership from Kean University where she was awarded the prestigious Educational Administration award by The American Association of School Administrators, School Superintendents Association.

Anthony Trongone, Superintendent,



Pemberton Public Schools

Tony Trongone joined Pemberton Township Schools as superintendent in July 2015. Before coming to Pemberton he served as superintendent of schools for Berlin Borough and Gibbsboro Public Schools, a post he held for five years. His previous experience includes serving as district supervisor of curriculum and instruction for Cherry Hill Public Schools, math facilitator for Gloucester City School District, and secondary mathematics teacher at Northern Burlington Regional High School in Columbus, NJ. Tony has fostered leadership teams in three school districts in Character Education with eight schools earning recognition as National Schools of Character.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 – 11:15 AM -12:00 PM

Fine Arts Classrooms



What Happens when “Schools Teach Schools”: A Replicable Coaching Method for School Improvement

Session: 1 Room: 201 Level: ALL

Presenters: Eileen Dachnowicz, Dr. Philip Fusco, Brendan Petersen, NJ/NY/PA Schools of Character Coordinators

Description: Educational studies show that the intentional teaching of SEL/character practices can transform school culture. State School of Character Coordinators from three states—NJ, NY, and PA—set out to show this is also true when Schools of Character intentionally “coach” aspiring schools with similar demographics. Our presentation describes what actually happened in the ASCENT (An Alliance of Schools of Character for Enrichment, Networking and Transformation) project in which 18 schools with vulnerable populations (children contending with poverty, different cultures, language barriers) worked together for improvement. Highlighting the session will be examples and anecdotes from the grant coordinators and schools that participated in the grant.

The Climate for Adults: It Matters!

Session: 1 Room: 205 Level: ALL

Presenter: Patricia Wright, Executive Director, NJPSA

Description: Problems with adult to adult relationships in school are often swept under the carpet. Yet, this set of relationships can make or break your school’s goal of creating a positive learning environment for students. Adult interactions also greatly impact a school’s capacity to promote the highest levels of student academic success. In this session, you will reflect on the adult relationships within your school; explore the causes of toxic adult to adult; consider the relationship between SEL instruction for students and adult modeling of SEL skills; and consider ways to create a strong sense of professionalism through collaboration.

Creating Student Leaders Through Character Ed. & Inclusion

Session: 1 Room: 261 Level: HS

Presenters: Chris Marcin and Lisa Rosso, Teachers, Arthur Johnson HS, Clark

Description: Character is cool at Arthur L. Johnson High School through the innovative activities run by the students in our school’s intentional focus on F.O.C.U.S. (Future, Opportunity, Character, Unity, and Success). Practices run the gamut from the Character Academy in which senior Peer Leaders teach the younger students the importance of kindness, leadership, and respect. We give students the reins to design and implement new activities which has resulted in an enthusiastic buy-in from both students and staff. Take home many new ideas to reinvigorate your student leadership development.

The Journey to Becoming a National School of Character

Session: 1 Room: 263 Level: ES

Presenters: Cassie Deighan and Jackie Millar, Special Education Teachers, Stony Brook School, Rockaway Township

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (Continued)

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 – 11:15 AM -12:00 PM

Fine Arts Classrooms



Description: PBSIS? Choosing a school mascot? How do we jumpstart our program? Stony Brook School in Rockaway Township faced this dilemma in 2012 when it became the first school in its district to initiate a formal character program, and now it is the first school in its district to become a School of Character. Join us as we describe how we got going and how, step-by-step, we added practices such as the Annual Character Kickoff Event, Peer Role Model program, Gratitude Journals, and Friendship Bracelet Challenge to stimulate student and staff enthusiasm for character-building. We welcome all questions!

Culturally Proficient Instruction Through the Lens of Student Voice

Session: 1 Room: 278 Level: ES

Presenters: Linda Patterson, First-Grade Teacher and Paula Pennington, Literacy Teacher, A. Russell Knight ES, Cherry Hill

Description: This presentation will show how A. Russell Knight is integrating the initiatives of Character Education, Cultural Proficiency, Student Voice, Growth Mindset and Marzano’s framework; with content, relationships, community, and instruction. We will share how we focused our efforts on increasing diverse instruction and giving students opportunities to express themselves. Our intention is to inspire our students to effect change in the world.

Full Value Communities

Session: 1 Room: 280 Level: ALL

Presenters: Dr. Richard Maizell and John Grund, LCSW, Owners, Full Value Communities

Description: Full Value Communities provides an overview of an experientially based primary prevention social emotional learning program that can be implemented across all school grades. The model is adaptable for special and general education populations, and fully integrated into classroom and non-academic settings. Topics will include Full Value Behavioral Norms, creating Full Value Commitments, calling group, integration into academic content areas, and Full Value’s connection to mindfulness and to CASAL standards. Participants will be immersed in the basic elements of the program using games and initiatives to teach elements of Full Value.

Sustainable SEL

Session: 1 Room: 301 Level: ALL

Presenter: Dr. Lee McDonald, Director of Counseling, Health & Wellness, West-Windsor Plainsboro RSD, West Windsor-Plainsboro

Description: Is your district thinking about social and emotional learning? Perhaps you have started implementing SEL practices? Join Dr. Lee McDonald, Director of Counseling, Health & Wellness for the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District who will share the District’s journey in implementing a K-12 strategic plan for Social and Emotional Learning. Participants will hear the district’s SEL implementation story over the last three years while walking through a series of brief activities to better understand a process for district SEL integration.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (Continued)

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 – 11:15 AM -12:00 PM

Fine Arts Classrooms



Social Emotional Learning Through the Arts

Session: 1 Room: 303 Level: ALL

Presenter: Shawna Longo, Music Teacher, Hopatcong Schools, Hopatcong

Description: The arts naturally align with social and emotional learning. The entire creative process is about responsible decision-making. This workshop will shine a light on the parallels that exist between each of the arts areas and the keys to social-emotional learning. Arts-based strategies will be presented to help build community in all classrooms. The arts can afford teachers an opportunity to build a deeper connection with their students. They also allow for a creative outlet where students discover what makes them happy and encourage them to do more of it!

Themes and Teams: Building a Bond with Middle School Students

Session: 1 Room: 307 Level: MS

Presenters: Gregg Desiderio, Principal and Mark Sinclair, Guidance Counselor, Valley Middle School, Oakland

Description: Valley Middle School believes that everyone—faculty, administration, support staff, students—should all work together to create a welcoming culture and strong bond. Using a theme-based foundation and intentional team-building activities, the school has been able to transform close to six hundred students into a loving, caring and supportive family. Starting at the foundation of fostering relationships and a sense of belonging is key in this structure of character development. Come to this interactive session to see how we manage to unite school, staff and community in a quest to shape students into the best people they can be. Practices such as Parent University, Immigration Day, Step-up Club, and multiple shared experiences add zest to our school’s many-sided character education program.

Simple Strategies to Teach Social-Emotional Skills, Character, and Civic Engagement

Session: 1 Room: 339 Level: ALL

Presenters: Samuel Nayman, STAT Project Director and Crystal Molyneaux, STAT Consultant, STAT Program, Rutgers University

Description: Polarization. Misunderstandings. Conflict. Our schools and communities are facing these divisive forces. We envision a world that collaboratively solves society’s social ills. This workshop exposes participants to evidence-based teaching practices (norms, respectful debate, and problem-solving skills) that can be seamlessly integrated into social studies classrooms and that support social-emotional skills, character, and a caring classroom climate. The interactive workshop includes an overview of each teaching strategy, video examples, and role-plays among participants. Participants will leave the session prepared to integrate these strategies into their classrooms the next day and will be provided with resources to address additional questions.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 - 1:00-1:45 PM

Fine Arts Classrooms



Changing High School Culture: Calling on Folks to Make a Difference

Session: 2 Room: 201 Level: HS

Presenters: Dr. Jerard Stephenson, Principal, North Plainfield HS, North Plainfield and Sulisnet Jimenez, Principal, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Elizabeth

Description: How do you build a sense of community in a high school that faces challenges such as poverty, language barriers and limited expectations? Two experienced principals will share their mutual success story of working together, explaining how student mentoring can create powerful bonds, and staff leadership of faculty meetings can improve school climate. They attribute their progress to “calling on folks who want to make a difference” and giving them the reins. Their frank discussion of what worked and what didn’t work will enhance their lively panel discussion, which is followed by a Q & A session

Community Awareness: Impact of Service Learning

Session: 2 Room: 205 Level: ES

Presenter: Laurie Coletti, Principal, McDivitt School, Old Bridge

Description: Participants in this workshop will share strategies and ideas for enhancing the school community and reaching out to the community at large. These ideas may be used to support a caring community, promote tolerance, form positive relationships, increase social responsibility, and connect the curriculum with service learning.

Telling & Hearing Your Character Education Story

Session: 2 Room: 261 Level: ALL

Presenter: Dr. Phil Brown, Founder, Past-President, NJASECD

Description: Telling stories is one of the most primary and powerful ways human beings communicate what is important and vital to our lives. Bring the story of your personal character education journey and prepare to listen and learn from other’s. We will explore what makes a persuasive, engaging story, and hear stories of how character education has created thriving schools.

More Than A Building: Maintaining a Positive School Climate in the Midst of Transition

Session: 2 Room: 263 Level: ES

Presenters: Norman Adams, Principal and Jennifer Rodier, Guidance Counselor, Isaiah Hayes Lower Elementary School, Pemberton Public Schools

Description: What do you do when your building is demolished, and your entire staff and student body is relocated to a “swing space”, while a new building is being constructed? In this presentation, you will learn how one school managed to maintain a positive school climate in the midst of packing, moving, and adjusting to new surroundings; all while continuing to focus on student achievement.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (Continued)

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 - 1:00-1:45 PM

Fine Arts Classrooms



EnCOMPASSING Social Emotional Learning in the School Culture

Session: 2 Room: 278 Level: ES

Presenters: Todd McCabe, School Counselor and Tia Zeleny, Teacher, Riverview Elementary School, Denver

Description: Social Emotional and Character Development is a journey for every school! We are all on different parts of that journey and it can be a bumpy road. There are many resources and ideas out there which can be overwhelming. We will lay out our 3+ year character journey and provide practical resources and creative ideas to help unify your school while making your character journey much smoother. Vision statements, service learning, social-emotional learning instruction, and student voice are some of the topics to be discussed. Let us be one of your many co-pilots on the never-ending character education journey!

Does Your Staff Set a Good Example?

Session: 2 Room: 280 Level: ALL

Presenter: Sandra Jacques, Esq., Attorney, LEGALONE, NJPSA/FEA

Description: This session will use TEACHNJ Arbitration Decisions and Social Media posts to demonstrate instances where a school staff member's behavior distracted from the School District's ability to build and maintain a sense of community. Staff may not realize that as role models and mentors, their behavior both in and out of the school building has an impact on the students. Participants will gain insight as to potential issues to proactively address with their staff in order to avoid a disruption to their School District's efforts of creating a positive and nurturing learning environment.

Creating a Gender Inclusive School Environment

Session: 2 Room: 301 Level: ALL

Presenter: Jennifer Federico, Principal and Leslie Smith, School Social Worker, Petway Elementary School, Vineland

Description: Today, many LGBTQ students are living openly as their authentic selves. Creating a safe, inclusive and welcoming learning environment for these students is a necessary and fundamental responsibility of all schools. This session will help participants use the framework of character education to navigate the ongoing challenges schools are facing in understanding and addressing the needs of LGBTQ students. Participants will develop an appreciation of the importance of gender inclusive schools, develop a framework for a safe, caring and supportive environment for all students, and explore age appropriate lessons for students in grades K-8.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (Continued)

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 - 1:00-1:45 PM

Fine Arts Classrooms



Creating a Plan that Supports Culture, Character, and SEL.

Session: 2 Room: 303 Level: MS

Presenters: Anthony Farinelli, Principal and Melissa Gleason, Vice Principal, Bell Oaks Middle School, Bellmawr

Description: Are you looking for a school-wide plan to address character, culture, and social-emotional learning? During this presentation, a dynamic and systemic plan will be outlined to meet the ever-changing needs of all learners at any grade level. Learn the how, what, and when of implementing programs and procedures aligned with the *Eleven Principles* set forth by character.org and the School of Character guidelines.

Creating a Culture of Kindness in a Middle School

Session: 2 Room: 307 Level: MS

Presenters: Joanna Veloz, Principal, Jennifer Sanchez, Literacy Coach and Carmela Macagnano, Guidance Counselor, Frank R. Conwell MS 4, Jersey City

Description: When climate surveys in Frank Conwell Middle School #4 in Jersey City revealed that students perceived bullying as an issue, the Character Education Team rolled up their sleeves and designed a three-pronged plan that revolved around the positive theme of “Creating a Culture of Kindness.” This lively interactive session will highlight what the team did to address the problem by targeting three areas: Student Ambassadors promoted the “kindness” message to the sixth graders, the administration made sure to practice it in novel ways at all staff meetings, and the school created a powerful social media platform accenting the positive school happenings via Twitter. Join us and find out the amazing results of this approach that you can replicate in your own school.

Using the NJ School Climate Resource Guide to Support School Climate Improvement and Promote Social and Emotional Learning

Session: 2 Room: 339 Level ALL

Presenters: Dr. Stephen Bernardini and Laura Calljas, Organizational Consultants, School Climate Transformation Project, Rutgers University

Description: This session provides an overview of the School Climate Transformation Project (SCTP) and guidance for using the School Climate Strategy Resource Guide (SRG). The SRG provides an overview of common research-based school climate and Social and Emotional Learning strategies, along with easy-to-use implementation checklists and examples of free resources to support design and implementation. In this session, participants will be introduced to a data-driven school climate change process using the New Jersey School Climate Survey (NJSCS) and guidance for planning effective implementation of new and current strategies. Through discussions and hands-on activities, participants will apply concepts related to school climate improvement to their own school environment to identify opportunities for growth and greater connectedness across all community stakeholders.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 - 2:00-2:45 PM

Fine Arts Classrooms



Tips on Applying for a NJ / National School of Character

Session: 3 Room: 201 Level: ALL

Presenter: Eileen Dachnowicz, NJ Schools of Character Coordinator

Description: Feeling overwhelmed in applying for a NJ School of Character? A seasoned national evaluator will ease your fears as she takes you through the process. Not only will you get a lively review of the Eleven Principles, but also you'll go home with some new practices to develop your program.

SEL4NJ: A New State and National Resource for Schools

Session: 3 Room: 205 Level: ALL

Presenters: Liz Warner, Spokesperson and Dr. Patricia Heindel, Founding Member, SEL4NJ

Description: SEL4NJ is an affiliate of SEL4US, a national network of state alliances promoting social-emotional learning (SEL) and related approaches. With over 200 New Jersey associations and organizations as its members, SEL4NJ has quickly established itself as the umbrella organization within the state working to ensure that all students in New Jersey have access to schools that provide a culture and climate that is respectful, caring, challenging, engaging, inspiring, safe and healthy. At this session learn about the vision, mission and strategies SEL4NJ is planning on implementing to provide resources and implementation support to schools.

Our Kind of People: Breaking Stereotypical Thinking

Session: 3 Room: 261 Level: HS/ALL

Presenter: Frank Stebbins, Teacher, Arthur Johnson HS, Clark

Description: Are you a victim of stereotypical thinking with preconceived notions of an individual, a group or an organization? Come to this lively interactive session in which you uncover your own prejudices and then see how stereotypical thinking by student and staff has a negative impact on a school's culture. Join your colleagues in a discussion on ways in which such thinking occurs at school and leave with successful practices gleaned from many districts to help folks move out of a narrow "our kind of people" focus into a greater acceptance of others. Led by an experienced high school Holocaust & Genocide teacher, this session offers ideas applicable to all grade levels and activities that can be replicated at workshops.

#GotLakeviewPride: Using Social Media to Promote Core Values

Session: 3 Room: 278 Level: ES

Presenters: Debra Warner and Maribeth Hall, School Counselors, Lakeview Elementary School, Denville

Description: Promoting core values, cross-grade articulations, and student leadership are essential in creating a culture of character and SEL. Student-led Den Meetings, programs such as Lakeview Lion Leaders, Morning Meeting Club, Kindness Crew, Shoe Tying Station, and Kindergarten Recess Helpers build community through service. #GotLakeviewPride PAW Program provide a forum for

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (Continued)

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 - 2:00-2:45 PM

Fine Arts Classrooms



conversation and appreciation. Students, staff, parents, and community members can nominate anyone demonstrating core values for a PAW. They then pass the PAW forward to someone else “Roaring with PRIDE.” Pictures are posted on Twitter @LakeviewCounsel. The program creates conversations and builds community one PAW at a time.

The Opioid Crisis, Vaping, and the Impact on Our Public Schools

Session: 3 Room: 263 Level: ALL

Presenter: Jim Sarto, Trustee, NJASECD

Description: The opioid crisis has a significant impact on the classroom and the home. Students who are using opioids and vaping are taking unnecessary risks. Knowing more about the perils of using these substances will help to avoid potential tragedies that these drugs can cause. This workshop will cover new teen drug trends, edibles, dabbing, bagging, and study drugs as well as the relationship between drug use and hidden social media technology. We will also cover the relationship between our schools and law enforcement as defined by the Memorandum of Agreement between police and the schools.

Beck’s Character Education Breakfast

Session: 3 Room: 280 Level: MS

Presenters: Al Morales, Assistant Principal and Ami Tabares, Teacher, Henry C. Beck MS, Cherry Hill

Description: During this presentation, we will explore the evolution of Beck’s Character Education Breakfast. What began as a brief recognition of students showing good character has grown into a community event involving teachers, students, and families. We celebrate the many ways each student models Beck’s core values and how these actions positively impact the culture of our school and community. This event has become a monthly reminder to our entire community of the priority placed on walking the talk and an expression of gratitude for our students and the many ways they contribute to the Beck community.

Middle School Madness- How to Make it All Work

Session: 3 Room: 301 Level: MS

Presenter: Marc Citro, Principal, Macopin School, West Milford

Description: Macopin School has been designated as a National School of Character and has earned over a dozen Promising Practice Awards from Character.Org. This workshop will focus on ideas and suggestions that you can use to make students look forward to coming to your (middle) school. We will share activities and events that have transformed our school into place that has something for everyone. We will focus on how to build a character team, gain support for initiatives, and including community members. This workshop will also discuss ideas on how to provide students with a voice as well as how to develop teacher leaders who are “All In.”

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (Continued)

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 - 2:00-2:45 PM

Fine Arts Classrooms

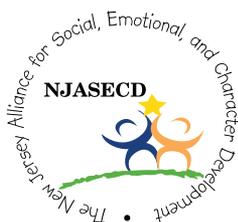


See How One National School of Character is Putting It All Together!

Session: 3 Room: 339 Level: ES

Presenters: Anthony Tumolo, District SEL Coordinator and Dr. Ann DeRosa, Principal, Whitehouse School, Whitehouse Station

Description: Whitehouse School's Journey has been continuous and integrated. Through monthly Town Hall Meetings and Family Conferences, a new trait and service focus are introduced before being integrated into the curriculum. All children complete reflective journal entries and common SEL homework assignments. The school community embarks on an annual thematic unit. Teachers keep abreast of current practices through PDP goals and PLC projects, and the SEL Lounge is favorite place for staff and students? Core values are embedded in surveys and interviewing protocols. Recently, an instrument was created to assess to five SEL competencies and school-based character initiatives.



NJASECD would like to thank all of our presenters for sharing their expertise and experience during the 2019 Annual Conference! If you would like to share details of your work in character education, school culture and climate, and/or social-emotional learning, please consider

proposing a presentation for our 2020 Conference.

NJASECD is an all-volunteer organization. We could always use more dedicated volunteers. If you would like to be a part of **NJASECD**, contact us via email at njasecd@gmail.com!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.njasecd.org

The 2019 Conference Committee

Dr. William H. Trusheim • Leigh Cline

Peter Clark • Carol Lawrence

Dr. Phil Brown • Eileen Dachnowicz

Laurie Coletti • Mary Reinhold

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