

FRESNO STATE

Bonner Center for Character Education
and Citizenship

ANNUAL REPORT: 2004

Update and progress on issues reported in January 2004

The Bonner Center has become a sponsor of the Civic Education Network for Region 7 directed by Advisory Council member John Minkler. Region 7 is one of the administrative regions for education in California and comprises a large part of California's Central Valley. The Civic Education Network for Region 7 is a clearinghouse for educators in the areas of civic education, service-learning, character education, and social studies. Its web page is listed on the Bonner Center's web site at: <http://www.civednet7.org/>

The Bonner Center Advisory Committee added two new members in 2004: Jim Lloyd is the Social Science coordinator for Fresno Unified School District, and Karen Worobey is the character education coordinator for the Madera County Office of Education.

Drs. Susan Schlievert and Jacques Benninga wrote a nine-part series for KVPR titled, "The Development of Understanding". Kaye Bonner-Cummings narrated the series that ran from September-November 2004.

Dr. Pam Lane-Garon has received a second grant from CSUF to continue her work on the Ethics project. She will use that grant to create an electronic procedure for administering and assessing ethical sensitivity dilemmas.

Activities of the Bonner Center for the Year 2004

1. Jacques Benninga was on Sabbatical during Spring 2004 (January – June). During that time he wrote three grant proposals two of which were subsequently funded.
 - a. Stability and Change in Character Education was funded by the John Templeton Foundation in Pennsylvania. The project will allow a follow up of exemplary schools identified in 2000 to determine if and how those exemplary programs continue over time. This research will be conducted from September 2004-May 2005.
 - b. The Partnerships in Character Education Program was one of four projects funded in 2004 by the Federal Government. The project is a joint effort of the Fresno Unified School District, the Bonner Center for Character Education and WestEd, an educational research entity. The proposal promises to: (1) Train adults in the school system in ethical decision-making; (2) Implement a proven character education curriculum, Second Step, and create Language Arts lessons to be incorporated in the core curriculum at the elementary level; (3) Support teachers in the implementation of those lessons; (4) Work to improve the physical/psychological factors at school sites that influence student behavior and achievement. Bonner Center staff for the project are: Jacques Benninga, Pam Lane-Garon and Rich Firpo.

2. April 20, 2005 will mark the 21st Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education. Jacques is the conference co-chair. Like last year, donations will be solicited from The Fresno Bee, the Central California Geographic Alliance, the EECU, the Fresno County Office of Education and the City of Fresno (fee waiver for the Fresno Convention Center's Exhibit Hall).

3. The 2004 Conference on Character and Civic Education (April 21, 2004) was a success. Post conference evaluations were excellent. International character education expert Dr. Tom Lickona was our morning keynote speaker, and former Administrator of the Year Jeff Eben, principal of Clovis East High School, was the afternoon keynote. Thirteen excellent elementary schools were awarded the Virtues and Character Recognition Program award:

BURTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Burton Elementary School District
Ms. Michelle Pengilly, Principal

COLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District
Mr. Ruth Di Santo, Principal

FORT WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District
Ms. Debra Parra, Principal

JIM MAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Burton Elementary School District
Ms. Sharon Kamberg, Principal

MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Central Unified School District
Ms. Sheila Moynihan, Principal

MIRAMONTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District
Mr. David Bower, Principal

NELSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District
Mr. W. Rich Smith, Principal

PALM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District
Mr. Roy Woods, Principal

RED BANK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District
Mr. Kevin Peterson, Principal

RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District
Ms. Kristie Wiens, Principal

SAROYAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Central Unified School District
Ms. Amy Teeter, Principal

VANDALIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Porterville Unified School District
Mr. Angel Valdez, Principal

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hanford Elementary School District
Ms. Marcie Guthrie, Principal

4. KSOEHD faculty presented fifteen of the 37 conference breakout sessions.
5. Donations were solicited and received in 2004 from the Fresno County Office of Education and the Tulare County Office of Education. These donations will be used as follows:
 - a. The FUSD money will be used to deliver a one-unit class on principles of character education for approximately 120 – 160 pre-teacher candidates over three semesters. Thereafter we hope to institutionalize the class.
 - b. The TCOE money will be used to sponsor the keynote speaker for the April 20 conference. He will be Michael Josephson of the Josephson Foundation and the director of the national Character Counts! program. Mr. Jim Vidak, Superintendent of the TCOE, will introduce Mr. Josephson.
6. The Ethics Project, headed by Pam Lane-Garon, continues its assessment and curriculum development work. The Early Childhood Education Multiple Subject Program is piloting the assessments and the complementary curriculum implementation model.
7. As part of a M.A. Project, Pam Lane-Garon and graduate student Deborah Marius designed a professional ethics class for early childhood educators at Fresno City College.
8. Both Pam and Jacques presented research at national association meetings and both continue to be active in moral/character education groups.
9. Both the Bonner Center web site and the Bonner Center materials center were completely updated and reconfigured during 2004. Pam secured a collection of related books from her former professor at Arizona State University. We plan to add many books and materials during 2005.

Bonner Center Plans for 2005

- The Bonner Center web site and the Bonner Center Materials Center will be continuously updated, restocked and replenished.
- We will continue to partner with FUSD in creating an excellent academic environment for its students by enhancing the dispositions of adults and the environments for students through the Partnerships in Character Education programs grant.
- We will continue working on the delivery and evaluation of the assessment instruments for ethical sensitivity.
- Our normal activities—the annual conference, the awards programs, and ongoing research will continue.