



Bonner Center for Character Education  
and Citizenship

## **ANNUAL REPORT: 2012**

### **Purpose of the Bonner Center**

The KSOEHD's Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship was formed in 1997 to promote character education in the Central Valley through providing nationally recognized speakers for the Fresno area, forums on character education and professional ethics, materials and other professional resources for review, and coordination for a variety of character award programs.

### **Administrative Housing of the Bonner Center**

The Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship is an authorized Ancillary Unit of the CSU Fresno and the KSOEHD. Dr. Jacques Benninga is its director and Dr. Pam Lane-Garon is its Associate Director. The Center's activities are guided by an Advisory Board composed of KSOEHD faculty, public school personnel from Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Madera counties, and local school districts.

### **Major Accomplishments for 2011-2012**

1. Twenty-six new scripts were written in 2011 for the 9th year of the KVPR (89.3 FM) series, "The Moral Is..." narrated by Kaye Cummings. "The Moral Is..." is a series of short essays written by CSUF faculty and sponsored by the Bonner Center. The content centers on contemporary moral issues. The program continues to be aired twice weekly--on Sundays and Wednesdays.

For the 2012 season, new professors were recruited to write (in addition to Benninga) including: Dr. Diane Blair (Communications), Dr. Andrew Fiala (Philosophy), Dr. Ida Jones (Business), Dr. Madhusudan Katti (Biology) and Ms. Kaye Cummings (Bonner Family Foundation). The delivery method also changed in that the writers of the essays now also read their own essays and the program has been included in KVPR's weekly series Valley Edition that airs on Tuesdays at 9:00 am (repeated at 7:00 pm.).

2. The 28th Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education was held in April 2012. Fresno Pacific students and faculty joined our CSU Fresno students and faculty. Approximately 500 students attended as well as local educators. Mr. Michael Josephson of the Joseph and Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics was our keynote speaker. His topic related to the importance of infusing character education into the school curriculum. In addition there were 30 breakout sessions and two general sessions. The following day the Bonner Center sponsored another full day workshop on character education with Dr. Hal Urban. Approximately 100 CSUF students attended this workshop. Written feedback from attendees have been collected. The conference was an overwhelming success and received very positive feedback from participants.
3. The 25th Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Program (2012) recognized 34 elementary schools for exemplary character education programs. This is a work-intensive process that is initiated in October of each year and culminates in March. Winning schools for 2012 included:

**HERNDON BARSTOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Central Unified School District

**SAROYAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Central Unified School District

**NORMAN LIDDELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Central Unified School District

**MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Central Unified School District

**JAMES K. POLK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Central Unified School District

**HARVEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Central Unified School District

**HOUGHTON-KEARNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Central Unified School District

**JOHN STEINBECK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Central Unified School District

**VALLEY PREPARATORY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

Fresno County Office Of Education

**CLOVIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Clovis Unified School District

**RED BANK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Clovis Unified School District

**CEDARWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Clovis Unified School District

**WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Clovis Unified School District

**FREMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Fowler Unified School District

**LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District

**MONTE VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Porterville Unified School District

**SANGER ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**FAIRMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**LONE STAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**RONALD W. REAGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**SEQUOIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**JOHN S. WASH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**DEL REY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sanger Unified School District

**WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Selma Unified School District

**SPRINGVILLE UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Springville Union School District

**SUNDALE UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Sundale Union Elementary School District

**TIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Tipton Elementary School District

**LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Tulare City School District

**WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Tulare City School District

**PLEASANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Tulare City School District

4. Jack has continued his active membership on the editorial board of the Journal for Research in Character Education. He became co-editor of the journal in 2012. As well, Jack is a core member of the University's Ethics Committee, and its Honor Code Committee.

### **Sources of Funding**

The Bonner Center sells no services or products. Income for the center's activities comes from donations provided by the following agencies:

- The Bonner Family Foundation
- The Kremen School of Education and Human Development
- Fresno County Office of Education
- Kings County Office of Education
- Madera County Office of Education
- Tulare County Office of Education
- Education Employees Credit Union
- Teaching Fellows Program

## Goals and Objectives for 2012-2013

Several areas will receive primary attention by the Bonner Center in 2012-13. These include:

- a. Research. Jack will spend part of the summer on writing projects and on updating the Bonner Center's web site.
- b. Writing. Script solicitation and writing for the 10th year of the KVPR series, The Moral is, will continue throughout the year.
- c. Conference Planning. The 2013 Conference on Character and Civic Education. The year 2012-13 will be spent raising the necessary funds for the conference and planning its events.
- d. Collaboration. The Bonner Center will continue work in collaboration with other ethics-related centers on campus to infuse a sense of academic integrity in all aspects of the workings of the campus.
- e. Other. Other areas to receive attention in 2012-13 include the materials collection in the Bonner Center, consultation with schools, speaking engagements, and instructional programs, and planning for the 26th Virtues and Character Recognition Awards (to be given to area elementary schools, April 2013).
- f. Of special significance is the initiation of study and work to see if a character education recognition program for high schools can be initiated.