Purpose of Ancillary Unit

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 Ancillary Unit

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. The Center's activities are guided by an Advisory Board composed of KSOEHD faculty, local school districts, and public school personnel from Fresno, Kings and Madera counties.

Major Accomplishments for 2014-2015

1. Twenty-six new scripts were written in 2014-2015 for the 12th year of the KVPR (89.3 FM) series, “The Moral Is…” “The Moral Is…” is a series of short essays written and read by CSUF faculty and sponsored by the Bonner Center. The content centers on contemporary moral issues. The program airs on Valley Voices (Tuesdays at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm) and Sundays at 3:55 pm. Authors of the series for 2014-15 included: Dr. Diane Blair (Communications), Dr. Ida Jones (Business), Dr. Andrew Fiala (Philosophy), Dr. Madhusudan Katti (Biology), Dr. Christopher Meyers (Kegley Center for Ethics at CSU Bakersfield), Ms. Kaye Cummings (Bonner Family foundation), and Dr. Jacques Benninga (Education).

2. The 31st Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education was held on March 13, 2015. The conference is coordinated each year by KSOEHD faculty Ms. Jane Moosoolian, Dr. Susan Schlievert and Jacques Benninga. Fresno Pacific students and faculty joined our CSU Fresno students and faculty. Over 500 students attended as well as local educators. Eduardo Briceno of Mindset Works was our keynote speaker. His topic A Growth Mindset Foundation for Character. The day included the 28th annual award programs for Valley schools, two general sessions, and 30 breakout sessions. The following day the Bonner Center sponsored a full day workshop on Social Media and Ethics. Approximately 110 CSUF students registered for this workshop (CI 124) and attended. The day included presentations on Privacy and the Ethical Framework (Dr. Andrew Fiala, Philosophy), Social Media and the Digital Footprint (Dr. Libbi Miller, C&I), and Digital Citizenship and Fair Use (Otto Benavides, C&I). Written feedback from attendees have been collected. The conference was an overwhelming success and received very positive feedback from participants.
3. The 28th *Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Program* (2015) recognized 13 Valley middle schools and 6 Valley high schools for exemplary character education programs. This is a work-intensive process initiated in October of each year and culminating in March. Winning schools honored for 2015 included:

**Middle School Winners**

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Selma Unified School District

**EL CAPITAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Central Unified School District

**GLACIER POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Central Unified School District

**JOHN F. KENNEDY JR. HIGH SCHOOL**  
Hanford Elementary School District

**KINGS CANYON MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Fresno Unified School District

**MULCAHY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Fresno Unified School District

**RIO VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Fresno Unified School District

**SCANDINAVIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Fresno Unified School District

**SEQUOIA MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Fresno Unified School District

**SUTTER MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Fowler Unified School District

**TEHIPITE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Fresno Unified School District

**WASHINGTON ACADEMIC MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Sanger Unified School District

**WAWONA MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Fresno Unified School District

**High School Winners**

**ACADEMY FOR CIVIC AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP**  
Chartered by Fresno Unified School District

**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
Central Unified School District

**FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL**  
Fowler Unified School District

**SANGER HIGH SCHOOL**  
Sanger Unified School District

**TULARE UNION HIGH SCHOOL**  
Tulare Joint Union High School District

**UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL**  
Chartered by Fresno Unified School District
4. Benninga serves as co-editor of the refereed *Journal of Character Education*, and is a core member of the University’s Ethics Committee, and this year, with Andrew Fiala (Philosophy) continued and co-directed a FLC on Professional Ethics. Members of the FLC included faculty from the Kremen School, School of Arts & Humanities, Craig School of Business, the Lyles College of Engineering, the Department of Physical Therapy, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Criminology.

**Goals and Objectives for 2015-2016**

Several areas will receive primary attention by the Bonner Center in 2015-16. These include:

a. **Research.** The Bonner Center is joining the Civic Education Task Force, one of several operating throughout the State of California at the behest of The California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning. The local group was formed by Justice Don Franson of the 5th District Court of Appeals. Part of the summer will be spent revising the Bonner Center’s award application and making other plans to include civic education into the Center’s framework. A proposal will be developed and presented by the Civic Education Task Force and the Bonner Center (Fresno State) to several funding agencies to more deeply infuse character and civic education into the programs of surrounding school districts.

b. The Bonner Center’s web site will be updated.

c. **Writing.** Work is to begin on a special issue of the *Journal Character Education* on character education and Common Core.

d. **Conference Planning.** The 32nd Annual *Conference on Character and Civic Education*. The summer of 2015 will be spent raising the necessary funds for the conference and planning its events.

e. **Other.** Other areas to receive attention in 2015-16 include the materials collection in the Bonner Center, consultation with schools, speaking engagements, and instructional programs, and planning for the 29th Virtues and Character Recognition Awards (to be given to area elementary schools, March 2016).