



Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship

Annual Report **Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship** **July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017** **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 2016-2017

1. The 33rd Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education was held on March 10, 2017. The conference is coordinated each year by KSOEHD faculty Ms. Jane Moosoolian, Dr. Susan Schlievert and Dr. Jacques Benninga. Fresno Pacific students and faculty joined our CSU Fresno students and faculty. We estimate that over 700 students attended, in addition to local educators. Dr. Michele Borba, internationally recognized expert and author on children, teens, parenting, bullying and moral development spoke about her new book, *UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World*. The book offers a 9-step program to help parents cultivate empathy in children, from birth to young adulthood. The conference day included the 30th annual award programs for Valley schools, two general sessions, and 30 breakout sessions. The conference was an overwhelming success and received very positive feedback from participants.

Planning for the conference was a cooperative effort between the Bonner Center and the Fresno Task Force on Civic Education, a local auxiliary of the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning led by California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson to infuse civic education in all California schools. The Fresno Task force is led by Judge Don Franson (5th District Court of Appeals) and local attorney Michael Wilhelm. John Minkler of the Bonner Center's Advisory Committee served as a significant consult to this project.

One result of this cooperation was the revision of the Bonner Center's Character and Civic Education award criteria.

2. The 30th Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Program (2017) recognized 13 Valley middle and high schools for exemplary character education programs. This is a work-intensive process initiated each year in October and culminating in March. Winning schools honored for 2017 included:

Middle Schools Awarded

ALTA SIERRA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District

CLARK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District

GRANITE RIDGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District

KASTNER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District

JOHN MUIR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Corcoran Joint Unified School District

PARKVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Armona Union Elementary School District

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Pioneer Union Elementary School District

SANGER COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

LA JOYA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Visalia Unified School District

High Schools Awarded

BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District

CLOVIS HIGH SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District

CLOVIS NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District

KINGS RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

3. Benninga serves as co-editor of the refereed *Journal of Character Education*. In addition to general editorial duties, he co-edited a special issue of the journal in 2017 along a theme related to the infusion of character education into the Common Core State Standards. He is a core member of the University's Ethics Committee.

As well, he initiated a project to explore a statewide consortium for Character Education in California. That group met several times in San Diego, Santa Clara and Fresno. Members include representatives from University of San Diego, CSU Bakersfield, Fresno State, Santa Clara University, and San Jose State. The objective is to expand character education to a larger segment of California beyond the Valley.

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

Goals and Objectives for 2017-2018

Several areas will receive primary attention by the Bonner Center in 2017-18. These include:

- a. Research. The Bonner Center is participating with Fresno State's Ethics Center and the Fresno County Civic Education Task Force. The goal is to establish a consolidated Ethics Center on Fresno State's campus. Thus far meetings have been held with university officials (i.e., Provost, respective deans, development officials, etc.) and local officials (e.g., Fresno Business council). This work will continue.
 - b. The Bonner Center's web site will be updated.
 - c. Writing. Benninga continues to serve as co-editor of the *Journal of Character Education*.
 - d. Conference Planning. The 34th Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education. The summer of 2017 will be spent raising the necessary funds for the conference and planning its events. We are searching for a keynote speaker.
 - e. Award Process Planning. Application for the 2018 Character and Civic Award Program will be revised. This will be the 31st annual such program for the Bonner Center.
 - f. Other. Other areas to receive attention in 2016-17 include the materials collection in the Bonner Center, consultation with schools, speaking engagements, and instructional programs, and planning for the upcoming year. A major project will be planning for the creation of the integrated Ethics Center.
4. The Bonner Center Advisory Committee is composed of KSOEHD faculty, representatives from local school districts, and public school personnel from Fresno, Kings and Madera counties.