



Bonner Center for Character Education
and Citizenship

ANNUAL REPORT: 2012-2013

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, public school personnel from Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Madera Counties, and representatives from local school districts.

Major Accomplishments for 2012-2013

1. Twenty-six new scripts were written in 2012-2013 for the 10th 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), on Wednesday at 7:55, and on Sundays at 3:55 pm. Authors of the series for 2012-13 included: Dr. Diane Blair (Communications), Dr. Ida Jones (Business), Dr. Andrew Fiala (Philosophy), Dr. Madhusudan Katti (Biology), Ms. Kaye Cummings (Bonner Family foundation), and Dr. Jacques Benninga (Education).

The series has added a new author to represent the South Valley (Bakersfield) area. Dr. Christopher Meyers, Institute Director of the Kegley Institute of Ethics will write two commentaries this year and will be fully integrated in the coming year.

2. The **29th Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education** was held in April 2013. The conference is coordinated each year by KSOEHD faculty Ms. Jane Moosoolian, Dr. Susan Schlievert and me. Fresno Pacific students and faculty joined our CSU Fresno students and faculty. Over 500 students attended as well as local educators. Dr. Michele Borba was our keynote speaker. Her topic related to setting up a climate for character through understanding both classrooms and children. The day included the 26th 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 character education with Dr. Charles Haynes of the First Amendment Center (Washington DC). Approximately 100 CSUF students registered for this workshop (CI 124) and attended. The day included a lecture/discussion on the First Amendment by Dr. Haynes; an introduction/description of *Face to Faith*, a school program allowing students in varying countries and of varying religions to video-conference; and, a panel discussion on democracy in schools. Written feedback from attendees has been collected. The

conference was an overwhelming success and received very positive feedback from participants.

Plans are underway for the 30th annual conference. The Fresno Convention Center’s Exhibit Hall has been reserved for March 28, 2014. Governor Jerry Brown’s office has been contacted requesting his presence as our keynote speaker. If he doesn’t accept, there are several other choices (but we’re hopeful).

3. The 26th *Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Program* (2013) recognized 13 Valley middle 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 2013 included:

Alta Sierra Intermediate School	Clovis Unified
Clark Intermediate School	Clovis Unified
Scandinavian Middle School	Fresno Unified
Sequoia Middle School	Fresno Unified
Tehipite Middle School	Fresno Unified
Wawona Middle School	Fresno Unified
Yosemite Middle School	Fresno Unified
John Sutter Middle School	Fowler Unified
John Muir Middle School	Corcoran Unified
Washington Academic Middle School	Sanger Unified
Lincoln Middle School	Selma Unified
Green Acres Middle School	Visalia Unified
Mulcahy Middle School	Tulare City Schools

4. Jack published one paper in 2013 (“Resolving Ethical Issues at School”—*Issues in Teacher Education*) and has continued his active membership on the editorial board of the *Journal for Research in Character Education*, serving as co-editor. As well, Jack is a core member of the University’s Ethics Committee, and its Honor Code Committee.

Jack received a variety of recognitions/awards during the 2012-13 academic year:

AWARD NAME	AWARDED BY	DATE
Ferd. Kiesel Memorial Distinguished Service Award [highest honor ACSA can bestow on an individual]	Assoc. of CA School Administrators (ACSA Tulare Co.)	received 6/19/2013
Ferd. Kiesel Memorial Distinguished Service Award [highest honor ACSA can bestow on an individual]	Assoc. of CA School Administrators (ACSA, CA Region IX)	received 5/02/2013

Kremen School Notable Alumnus [for significant contributions to the field of education]	Kremen School of Education and Human Development Alumni Chapter'	received 03/21/2013
Best Practice Award for Professional Ethics and Moral Dispositions in Teacher Education	American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE— Washington, DC) [writer and contributor to award]	received 03/02/2013
Sanford N. McDonnell Award for Lifetime Achievement in Character Education [highest honor CEP can bestow on an individual]	Character Education Partnership (CEP) (Washington DC)	received 11/02/2102

• **Goals and Objectives for 2013-2014**

Several areas will receive primary attention by the Bonner Center in 2013-14. These include:

- a. Research. Jack will spend part of the summer on writing projects and on updating the Bonner Center's web site.

Writing projects include:

- a project on professional ethics with Dr. Andrew Fiala (CSUF Philosophy) and Dr. Steve Johnson (Santa Clara University) to produce training materials for professional ethics in education. We are searching for funding for this project;
 - a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) proposal to Fresno State written by Dr. Andrew Fiala and me for a professional ethics initiative across professions at Fresno State;
 - A proposal written by the Character Education Partnership (CEP-Washington) and the Bonner Center (Fresno State) to the Bechtel Foundation to more deeply infuse character education into the programs of surrounding school districts.
- b. Writing. Script coordination and writing for the 11th year of the KVPR series, *The Moral is*, will continue throughout the year. Additionally, Jack is editing a special issue of the *Journal of Research in Character Education* on character education in the 21st century to appear in 2014.
 - c. Conference Planning. The 30th Annual *Conference on Character and Civic Education*. The summer of 2013 will be spent raising the necessary funds for the conference and planning its events.
 - d. Other. Other areas to receive attention in 2013-14 include the materials collection in the Bonner Center, consultation with schools, speaking engagements, and instructional programs, and planning for the 27th Virtues and Character Recognition Awards (to be given to area elementary schools, April 2014).
 - e. Of special significance is the initiation of study and work to see if a character education recognition program for high schools can be initiated.