

**Annual Report****Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship****July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

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**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 2015-2016**

1. The **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education** was held on March 10, 2016. 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 650 students attended in addition to local educators. Dr. Michelle Herzog, immediate past president of the National Council for the Social Studies was our keynote speaker. She spoke about California's Civic Education mandate and the document, *Revitalizing K-12 Civic Learning in California: A Blueprint for Action*. The day included the 29<sup>th</sup> 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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> **Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Program** (2016) recognized 25 Valley elementary 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 2016 included:

HARVEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Central
CENTURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
COPPER HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
DRY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
FUGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
NELSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
REAGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
SIERRA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
TARPEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Clovis
TEMPERANCE-KUTNER ELE SCHOOL	Clovis
DAWSON & SUNSET ELE SCHOOL	Coalinga-Huron
JOHN FREMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Fowler
MALAGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Fowler
MARSHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Fowler
MARTIN LUTHER KING ELE SCHOOL	Hanford

PIONEER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Pioneer Union (Hanford)
CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Sanger
DEL REY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Sanger
JOHN WASH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Sanger
REAGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Sanger
SEQUOIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Sanger
WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Sanger
WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Tulare

- Benninga serves as co-editor of the refereed *Journal of Character Education*, and 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 three times over the year in San Diego, Santa Clara and Fresno. Members include representatives from University of San Diego, CSU Bakersfield, Fresno State, Santa Clara University, San Jose State, and National University. A seed grant was obtained from the Rupert Johnson Foundation to engage in this work.

### **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

### **Goals and Objectives for 2016-2017**

Several areas will receive primary attention by the Bonner Center in 2016-17. These include:

- 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 5<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals. Part of the summer will be spent revising the Bonner Center's award application for Middle and High Schools 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 has begun on an upcoming special issue of the *Journal of Character Education* on character education and Common Core. Benninga and Heather Cozad (Character Education Partnership) will serve as editors of that special issue.
- d. Conference Planning. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Conference on Character and Civic Education*. The summer of 2016 will be spent raising the necessary funds for the conference and planning its events. Dr. Michele Borba, author of the new book, *UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World* was invited as keynote speaker.
- e. Award Process Planning. Application for the 2017 Character and Civic Award Program will be revised. This will be the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 and working towards a California Consortium for Character Education.