

ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2013-June 20, 2014

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, and public school personnel from Fresno, Kings, and Madera counties, and local school districts.

Major Accomplishments for 2014

1. Twenty-six new scripts were written in 2013-2014 for the 11th year of the KVPR (89.3 FM) series, "*The Moral Is...*" "*The Moral Is...*" is a radio program of short essays written and read by CSUF faculty coordinated 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 on Wednesdays at 7:50 pm, and Sundays at 3:50 pm. Authors of the series for 2013-14 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). This year the authors represented greater breadth in the Central Valley, with Dr. Christopher Meyers, director of the Kegley Center for Ethics at CSU Bakersfield, joining the writing group. Dr. Meyers wrote three scripts for 2014 and is now part of the regular writing group rotation. KVPR recently extended the program for another season, making next year our 12th year of programming for this unique show.
2. The **30th Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education** was held in March 28, 2014. 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. Over 500 students attended, as well as local educators. Dr. Maurice Elias was our keynote speaker. He is an internationally recognized expert on children, parenting, bullying prevention, and moral development, and the director of the Rutgers Social-Emotional Learning Lab (Rutgers University) and its Developing Safe and Civil Schools Initiative. The day included the 27th annual award programs for Valley schools, two general sessions, and 30 breakout sessions. The following day (Saturday, March 29) the Bonner Center sponsored a full day workshop on professional ethics with speakers including Dr. Andrew Fiala (CSUF Philosophy), Professor Steve Johnson (Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University), Dr. John Minkler (FUSD) and Rabbi Laura Winer (Doctoral Student, Jewish Theological Seminary). Approximately 110 students attended that second day session.
3. The 27th **Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Program** (2014) recognized Valley elementary schools for exemplary character education programs. Over 60 schools applied for the award, a record, and 30 were awarded. This is a work-intensive process that is initiated in October of each year and culminates in March. Elementary schools recognized for their character education programs in 2014 included:

SCHOOL	DISTRICT
Oak Grove Elementary	Burton School District
Biola Pershing Elementary	Central Unified
Herndon Barstow Elementary	Central Unified
Houghton-Kearney Elem.	Central Unified
Liddell Elementary	Central Unified
Madison Elementary	Central Unified
McKinley Elementary	Central Unified
Polk Elementary	Central Unified
River Bluff Elementary	Central Unified
Saroyan Elementary	Central Unified
Steinbeck Elementary	Central Unified
Teague Elementary	Central Unified
Bud Rank Elementary	Clovis Unified
Cedarwood Elementary	Clovis Unified
Mountain View Elementary	Clovis Unified
Oraze Elementary	Clovis Unified
Red Bank Elementary	Clovis Unified
Valley Prep Academy	Fresno Unified
Webster Elementary	Golden Valley
Fairmont Elementary	Sanger Unified
Jackson Elementary	Sanger Unified
Jefferson Elementary	Sanger Unified
Lincoln Elementary	Sanger Unified
Lone Star Elementary	Sanger Unified
Madison Elementary	Sanger Unified
Quail Lake Elementary	Sanger Unified
Sanger Academy Charter	Sanger Unified
White Elementary	Selma Unified
Sundale Elementary	Sundale Elementary
Pleasant Elementary	Tulare City Elementary

4. After two years of planning and research, the Bonner Center launched a high school recognition program in 2015. It will be called the **Best Practices in Civic and Character Education Award**. Eight high schools from around the Valley have applied. In addition the Bonner Center is conducting its Virtues and Character Education Recognition Award for Middle Schools. Fourteen middle schools have applied. Winning schools will be awarded at the Conference on Character and Civic Education on March 13, 2014.
5. Benninga continues his active membership on the editorial board of the *Journal of Character Education*, serving as co-editor. He is a core member of the University's Ethics Committee, and this year, with Andrew Fiala (Philosophy) continues to co-direct a

Faculty Learning Community (FLC) Group on Professional Ethics. Members of the FLC include faculty from the Kremen School, Arts and Humanities, Craig School of Business, the Lyles College of Engineering, and the departments of Physical Therapy, Public Health and Women's Studies. The intention is to increase the visibility of professional ethics in these professional preparation programs.

Goals and Objectives for 2015

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

- a. Writing. Script coordination and writing for the 12th year of the KVPR series, *The Moral is*, will continue throughout the year. Additionally, Jack is continuing his work as co-editor of the *Journal of Character Education* and will be proposing the next special issue of that journal in addition to receiving/reviewing and editing manuscripts.
- b. Conference Planning. The 31st Annual *Conference on Character and Civic Education* will be planned during summer and fall 2014. Time will be spent raising the necessary funds for the conference and planning its events. The conference is set for March 13, 2015.
- c. Conference Planning (Day 2). A second day of character education will be held on March 14, 2015 at Fresno State and will focus on social media. Topics will include cyber bullying, plagiarism, inappropriate contact with students, sexting, and academic dishonesty.
- d. Collaboration. The Bonner Center will continue work in collaboration with other ethics-related majors/classes on campus to infuse a sense of academic integrity in all aspects of the workings of the campus. One such project is the continuation for a second year of the FLC on professional ethics directed jointly by Dr. Andrew Fiala and Jacques Benninga.
- e. Other. Other areas to receive attention in 2015 include the materials collection in the Bonner Center, consultation with schools, speaking engagements, and instructional programs, updating the Bonner Center website, and planning for the 28th annual Virtues and Character Recognition Awards to both middle schools and high schools.