



Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship

Annual Report
Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018
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 personnel from Fresno, Kings and Madera County Offices of Education.

Major Accomplishments for 2017-2018

1. The 34th Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education was held on March 9, 2018. The conference was coordinated 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. Hal Urban. Dr. Urban was a teacher for thirty-six years, both in high schools and at his alma mater, the University of San Francisco. He has authored six books, all of which have an emphasis on good character. Dr. Urban will spoke about his book, "*Lessons from the Classroom: 20 Things Good Teachers Do*". The conference day included the 31st 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.
2. The 31st Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Program (2018) recognized 33 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 2018 included:

Biola-Pershing Ele School
Central Unified School District

Cedarwood Elementary School
Clovis Unified School District

Clay Elementary School
Clay Joint School District

Clovis Elementary School
Clovis Unified School District

Cole Elementary School
Clovis Unified School District

Dailey Ele Charter School
Fresno Unified Board of Trustees

Eric White Elementary School
Selma Unified School District

Fairmont Elementary School
Sanger Unified School District

Frontier Elementary School
Pioneer Union Elementary School District

Gettysburg Elementary School
Clovis Unified School District

Hanh Phan Tilley Elem School
Central Unified School District

Jackson Elementary School
Sanger Unified School District

James K. Polk Ele School
Central Unified School District

Jefferson Elementary School
Sanger Unified School District

Liberty Elementary School
Clovis Unified School District

Lincoln Elementary School
Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District

Lincoln Elementary School
Sanger Unified School District

Lone Star Elementary School
Sanger Unified School District

Madison Elementary School
Sanger Unified School District

Madison Elementary School
Central Unified School District

Maple Creek Ele School
Clovis Unified School District

McKinley Elementary School
Central Unified School District

Pinedale Elementary School
Clovis Unified School District

Quail Lake Environmental Charter School
Sanger Unified School District

River Bluff Elementary School
Central Unified School District

Sanger Academy Charter School
Sanger Unified School District

Starr Elementary School
Fresno Unified School District

Sundale Elementary School
Sundale Union Elementary School District

Teague Elementary School
Central Unified School District

Valley Oak Elementary School
Clovis Unified School District

Virginia R. Boris Ele School
Clovis Unified School District

Weldon Elementary School
Clovis Unified School District

William Saroyan Elem School
Central Unified School District

3. Benninga serves as co-editor of the refereed *Journal of Character Education* and is a core member of Fresno State's Ethics Committee and character.org's Quality Assurance Task Force.

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 Central 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

4. The unit's financial statement: see attached

5. 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:

Dr. Jacques Benninga Kremen School, CSUF	Ms. Dianna Young Marsh Assistant Superintendent Madera County Office of Education
Dr. Nancy Akhavan , Kremen School, CSUF	Mr. Randy Mehrten Fresno County Office of Education
Mr. Dan Bordona , Fresno Unified	Dr. John Minkler Bonner Center, CSUF
Dr. Kathryn Catania Deputy Superintendent Fresno County Office of Education	Ms. Jane Moosoolian Kremen School, CSUF
Ms. Leanna Cantrell Kings County Office of Education	Dr. Susan Schlievert Kremen School, CSUF
Ms. Kaye Bonner Cummings Bonner Family Foundation	Dr. Richard Sparks Bonner Center, CSUF
Mr. Manuel Escandon Fresno County Office of Education	Dr. Jennifer Moradian Watson Kremen School, CSUF
Dr. Andrew Fiala Department of Philosophy California State University Fresno	Dr. Don Wise Kremen School, CSUF
Dr. Steve Hart Kremen School, CSUF	Mr. Jim Yovino Superintendent Fresno County Office of Education
Ms. Erica Hasenbeck , Fresno Unified	Dr. Mariya Yukhymenko Kremen School, CSUF
Dr. Christina Luna Kremen School, CSUF	

Goals and Objectives for 2018-2019

Several areas will receive primary attention by the Bonner Center in 2018-19. 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). One proposal has been submitted and two are in preparation (Summer 2018). 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*. He reviews manuscripts and coordinates special theme issues.
- d. Conference Planning. The 35th Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education is scheduled for March 8, 2019. The summer of 2018 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 2019 Character and Civic Award Program will be revised. This will be the 32nd annual such program for the Bonner Center.
- f. Other. Other areas to receive attention in 2018-19 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.