

Twenty-Second Annual
Challenge to Educational Citizenship
Award Program



Connecticut State Student Advisory
Council on Education

Connecticut Association of Schools
May 23, 2017



The 2017 State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) was pleased to offer schools throughout Connecticut the opportunity to apply for recognition in the twenty-second annual Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Program. This program was the “brain child” of the 1996 edition of SSACE as a way of promoting citizenship through co-curricular programs.

Today, nine winning entries, from a pool of applications submitted by approximately 35 schools, are being honored. The recipients embody the spirit of citizenship and commitment to serving others, as well as altruism. Submitted projects were judged by the 20 high school student members of this year’s council. The submissions were evaluated on the basis of the depth, breadth, and quality of impact on others in the school community.

Schools were asked to reflect on the organizations within their school community. Do any epitomize exemplary civic awareness, cooperation, and boundless potential for community impact?

SSACE Presenters

Isha Dalal, senior, Trumbull High School

Tyler Deitelbaum, senior, Naugatuck High School

Audrey Garcia, sophomore, Bethel High School

SSACE Adviser

Dave Maloney, Director of Student Activities
Connecticut Association of Schools

Broadview Middle School, Danbury

Faculty Contact - Christine Miller

“Broadview United”

Broadview United is a program that includes Unified Sports, Leadership, and Service to the community. The entire program is designed by students to make their school kinder and more inclusive.

Canton Middle School

Faculty Contact - Christina Olsen

“Day of Service”

Day of service, an action plan by the school’s leadership committee, brought all 285 students and 30 faculty members outside of the classrooms to complete a variety of service projects within the community.

Conard High School, West Hartford

Faculty Contact - Jacqueline Corricelli

“Bits and Bytes”

Bits and Bytes is a club at Conard that partners our high school students with 4th graders at Smith STEM Elementary School to teach younger students the core concepts of computer science.

Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School, Southington

Faculty Contact - Trish Kenefick

“Southington Says NO”

Those involved in the project created an app as a tool to help students learn to say NO in an effort to prevent the substance abuse problems in Southington. The app provides access to professional opinions, an anonymous log, ways to report problems, and further educational initiatives.

Madison Middle School, Trumbull

Faculty Contact - Jeanne Malgioglio

“Sending Holiday Hugs”

The KARE club makes fleece tied blankets to comfort children who are suffering in hospitals and local shelters. The club adopted the Center for Family Justice and provided those in need with special goodie bags.

Naugatuck High School

Faculty Contact - Timothy Reilly

“DECA Boys’ Day”

This DECA Club project offers peer mentoring by pairing high school junior and senior boys with 5th through 8th grade boys to help improve self-esteem and decision making, particularly for those lacking a father figure.

Pomfret Community School
Faculty Contact - Jessica Werstler
"Hope For Haiti"

For the past 7 years, 7th and 8th graders have worked with Partners in Development and the Haiti Health Foundation to improve the lives of people in Haiti who were devastated by the 2010 earthquake.

Rockville High School, Vernon
Faculty Contact - Deborah Duarte
"Breaking Stereotypes"

The "Unity Team" launched this program during lunch waves to symbolically end the use of racial, religious, ethnic, and social class stereotyping. The program initiated many positive discussions about ending hate and hurtful words throughout the community.

Science & Technology Magnet High School, New London
Faculty Contact - Damaris Zimbelman
"More Than Words"

The mission of this program is to promote respect for diversity, facilitate communication and build trust among all members of the greater New London community. Students have led workshops at local elementary and middle schools to discuss diversity and anti-bullying.