

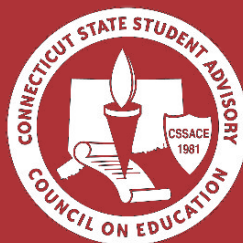


26<sup>th</sup> Annual

# CHALLENGE TO EDUCATIONAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD PROGRAM



JUNE 10, 2021 | 10:00 AM  
CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS | CHESHIRE CT



# Introduction

The State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) is pleased to offer schools throughout Connecticut the opportunity to apply for recognition in the 26<sup>th</sup> 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, we honor forty winning entries that embody the spirit of citizenship and commitment to serving others, as well as altruism. Submitted projects were judged by the 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 Adviser

***Cherese Miller-Odukwe**, Director of Student Activities  
Connecticut Association of Schools*

## Masters of Ceremony

***SSACE Students***

## Welcome

***Amanda Pickett, MSW**  
Associate Education Consultant  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness*

**EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT  
BECAUSE ANYBODY  
CAN SERVE**

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

# **2021 AWARD WINNING SCHOOLS**

## **Wilton High School, Wilton, CT | *“St. Baldrick’s Group”***

The Wilton High School St. Baldrick’s Group which started as a single day event twelve years ago has blossomed into an annual fundraiser for the national St. Baldrick’s Organization where they have earned almost \$270,000 since their conception toward research for finding a cure for pediatric cancer! This event is more than just having students and staff shave off their hair -- it is a “sense of community” within the town of Wilton.

## **Wilton High School, Wilton, CT | *“Socks for Soldiers”***

Socks for Soldiers began as a small-scale drive within Wilton High School in the year of 2008 in the memory of Nick Madaras, a Wilton High School graduate who was killed while serving in Iraq. Thirteen years later, Socks for Soldiers has extended its reach to multiple schools within the Wilton district, contributing to a collection of numbering over 15,000 socks. These socks have benefited U.S. soldiers across the world including those stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Alaska, and South America as well as veterans across our country.

## **Wilton High School, Wilton, CT | *“Buon Amico”***

The Buon Amico (Good Friend) is a club that works with students moving into Wilton High School. Since the transition to a new school often can be “nerve racking” and cause stress, the students in this club serve as confidantes and advisors in and out of school, making an adjustment for these students as stress free as possible.

## **Wilton High School, Wilton, CT | *“Bronx Lacrosse Outreach Club”***

The Bronx Lacrosse Outreach Club is a year round academic and sports based youth development program that empowers kids on and off the field, as well as, in the classroom.

## **Wilton High School, Wilton, CT | *“Peervention Program”***

The Wilton High School Peervention Program has been in existence for over 40 years, with a student driven mission to support peers in the school community, through the creation of a positive and accepting environment.

## **Joseph Melillo Middle School, East Haven, CT | *“Smiles for Staff”***

Student Council members chose a project called “Smiles for Staff.” They organized Thank You bags filled with treats and goodies. Students used social distancing and Covid guidelines to surprise staff and show them gratitude for their hard work through unprecedented times.

## **Cromwell High School, Cromwell, CT | *“Caring Beyond Themselves”***

The Cromwell High School Student Council strives for students to pursue their leadership roles and skills throughout life to enhance and impact today’s society. One of their number one goals is to get out and be of service to the community. Of course, they needed some sort of profit in order to meet that goal. So, the Student Council sold masks in order to fundraise and do amazing things for the community such as: hanging hearts for staff members, buying gifts to show appreciation to support staff in the building, teacher goodie bags, gifts for administration and beyond.

## **The Woodstock Academy, Woodstock, CT | *“Family Related Effective Solutions for Humanity”***

The Family Related Effective Solutions for Humanity is a student-run organization that has been operating at Woodstock Academy for over ten years. Their main mission is to improve the community by fundraising, for a local summer camp scholarships, providing food to families in need through the food pantry, and tutoring middle school students through their mentoring program.

## **The Woodstock Academy, Woodstock, CT | *“B Club”***

The “B Club” is a group of students caring for students who face medical hardships. The club’s two primary objectives are to raise money to defray the family’s health-care expenses and to help provide normal adolescent experiences.

## **The Woodstock Academy, Woodstock, CT | *“Earth Save Garden”***

During the pandemic summer of 2020, twenty-five (25) students worked in the blazing heat to start a garden from scratch. This functioning garden allowed students to supply the school’s food pantry which served 25 family units. The name of this garden is the Earth Save Garden.

## **The Woodstock Academy, Woodstock, CT | *“Student Climate Activists Welcome”***

The Student Climate Activists Welcome group ensures the well-being of classmates and create a positive school climate for all. This group has been active for five years and has 30 members.

## **Ansonia High School, Ansonia, CT | *“Big Chargers, Little Chargers”***

The main goal of Big Chargers, Little Chargers, is for the Ansonia High School Human Relations Club members to mentor eighth graders to better prepare them for high school and give younger students a safe place to socialize with others.

## **Bristol Central High School, Bristol, CT | *“InterAct Club”***

Since 2003, the Bristol Central “InterAct Club” has hosted the Mr. BCHS Pageant, an event that features 10-20 male senior students. The purpose is to donate sales to non-profit organizations in the community.

## **Middlebrook School, Wilton, CT | *“WEB: Where Everybody Belongs”***

The “WEB: Where Everybody Belongs” program began in 2018 to help 6th graders transition into middle school. The purpose of the program is to prepare 6th graders before the start of the school year, in order to help foster kindness, cooperation and promote a positive school community.

## **Waterbury Career Academy High School, Waterbury, CT | *“Free Little Libraries”***

Teachers from Waterbury Career Academy were awarded the Teaching Our Cities and Schoolyard Grant with a goal to create a cross-curricular project focusing on environmental and social justice. The teachers and students developed the idea of Free Little Libraries in the local parks.

### **Cromwell High School, Cromwell, CT | *“Teacher Appreciation Week.”***

In order to show gratitude and appreciation to teachers, the Cromwell High School’s National Honors Society created a Teacher Appreciation Week. Students come together to provide treats to all staff members.

### **Cromwell High School, Cromwell, CT | *“Caring Beyond Themselves”***

Caring Beyond Themselves started in the 2020-21 school year and their mission is to include all members of the student body to work together, toward the betterment of the school and community.

### **Bacon Academy, Colchester, CT | *“NHS Gives Back”***

NHS Gives Back creates enthusiasm for scholarship, promotes leadership, develops character, and most importantly kindles a desire to serve the community.

### **Cider Mill School, Wilton, CT | *“Helping Hands”***

Helping Hands brainstorms and executes plans promoting kindness and inclusion. Together they organize activities to ensure everyone in school feels happy and welcome.

### **King Philip Middle School, West Hartford, CT | *“StressLess Club”***

The mission of the StressLess Club is to provide middle school students an outlet to relieve stress in fun ways. Club meetings range from drawing, exercising, meditation, games, etc. The hope is that the club will create an outlet for students to reduce stress.

### **West Haven High School, West Haven, CT | *“Fill-A-Bag, Fuel-A-Mind”***

Recognizing the rise in food insecurity among families during the pandemic, the Fill-A-Bag, Fuel-A-Mind Club started to help families in need. The goal is to make sure that students have the proper nutrition, and they also address issues with bullying.

### **Farmington High School, Farmington, CT | *“Social Justice Week”***

The members of the Social Justice Council at Farmington High School lead all of the work that is done as a school and community, to push social justice issues on a local and state level. The purpose of SJC is intersectionality. This year, over 2,000 students attended the various presentations given by FHS students from all over social justice clubs.

### **Farmington High School, Farmington, CT | *“Peer Leaders Program”***

The Farmington High School Peer Leaders Program is a group of junior and senior students who serve as role models to all students in the community. The group is taught a variety of communication methods that are used to teach decision making and self-advocacy skills to create a healthier community.

### **Farmington High School, Farmington, CT |**

#### ***“The Farmington Senior Citizen Music Performance Project”***

This is a video project that students created for the elderly during the pandemic. Prior to these performances being on video, students would perform for the elderly at a dinner show that the school put on for them yearly. Now with the elderly missing those in-person performances, students did not want them to miss out.

### **Conard High School, West Hartford, CT | *“Conard Herren Project Club”***

The “Conard Herren Project Club” is a national nonprofit that works to provide free resources and support for treatment, recovery and prevention of substance use disorder. The mission of this group is to promote mental health awareness and provide resources to help students.

### **Brien McMahon High School, Norwalk, CT | *“McMahon Students Support Equity in Education”***

This group was established in response to the civil and political unrest in the country. MSEE’s mission is to address equity in schools.

### **Kennedy High School, Waterbury, CT | *“Young Women’s Empowerment Group”***

This group has a mission to enable teenage girls to empower themselves and others, and to reach their fullest potential as productive, responsible, compassionate, and educated citizens.

### **Joseph Melillo Middle School, East Haven, CT | *“Smiles for Staff”***

Student council members organized thank you bags filled with treats and goodies. They surprised staff to show them gratitude for their hard work through these unprecedented times.

### **Whisconier Middle School, Brookfield, CT | *“Read Across America Video Project”***

The Read Across America Video Project provides videos for younger students, to listen to older students, read. Students spent a month planning and recording. They did this to spread their love of reading and motivate younger students to read.

### **Northwest Catholic High School, West Hartford, CT | *“Advocates for Equity”***

Advocates for Equity works to educate, advocate, and empower the Northwest Catholic community on the topic of race. The group is a safe space for students to express their experiences without judgment and to celebrate diverse cultures.

### **Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, Coventry, CT | *“Picture Books”***

This group was created to teach students about kindness, making friends, friendship, self-love and confidence. The books help the students to deal with struggles that they might have making friends and handling situations, when classmates are not nice.

### **Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, Coventry, CT | *“Flower Pots”***

This group was created to show appreciation to all the adults at Nathan Hale Middle School who help students the most. These adults received hand painted, unique flower pots. The project was done to make people happy and feel appreciated.

### **Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, Coventry, CT | *“Season of Giving”***

This club provided a way to put smiles on the faces of people in need. Students in this club made hand-painted dough ornaments, pet blankets, and animal toys, for two groups as a part of season of giving. The ornaments were donated to a nursing home in Hamden and the animal toys and fleece blankets to an animal rescue center.

## **Farmington High School, Farmington, CT | *“Social Justice Week”***

The members of the Social Justice Council at Farmington High School lead all of the work that is done as a school and community, to push social justice issues on a local and state level. The purpose of SJC is intersectionality. This year, over 2,000 students attended the various presentations given by FHS students from all over social justice clubs.

## **Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, Coventry, CT |**

### ***“Life is Tough, But So Are You”***

This is a group of six students who created a bulletin board about motivation, positivity, jokes, and confidence. This year-long bulletin board helped to brighten the days of many students throughout the school year.

## **Madison Middle School, Trumbull, CT |**

### ***“MLK Collection for McGivney and Mercy Learning Centers”***

This is a program where students collect art supplies to donate it to the MLK Collection for McGivney and Mercy Learning Centers. This program is to honor Martin Luther King’s legacy by helping children in need.

## **Madison Middle School, Trumbull, CT | *“Mittens for Many”***

This group was started by two students, five years ago. These students have collected over 950 mittens, gloves, and winter accessories to keep the hands of those in need, warm.

## **Madison Middle School, Trumbull, CT | *“Hearts of Madison”***

The is a teacher appreciation initiative that was started during the 2020/21 school year. This initiative is to show teachers how appreciated they are for all that they do, especially during this challenging year.

## **Madison Middle School, Trumbull, CT | *“Letters to Sailors and Submariners”***

The KARE club is a community service club that that takes the time to write letters to sailors and submariners that have been hospitalized or injured. The goal is to put smiles on their faces and let them know they are appreciated.

## **Madison Middle School, Trumbull, CT | *“Giving Tuesday Video”***

The “Giving Tuesday Video” is a worldwide movement in which people are encouraged to participate in charitable acts and volunteer in their communities.



# WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

HARASSMENT AND ABUSE HAPPENS IN ALL COMMUNITIES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO BELIEVE AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

Learn more about helping a friend at [EndSexualViolenceCT.org](http://EndSexualViolenceCT.org)  
English: 1-888-999-5545 / Español: 1-888-568-8332

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE  
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE   
Support. Advocate. Prevent.



# CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Support. Advocate. Prevent.

# LET US PAY YOUR TUITION

learn more at [nationalguard.com/ct](http://nationalguard.com/ct)

Live Here. Serve Here. Learn Here.

CONNECTICUT  
**ARMY  
NATIONAL  
GUARD**

