

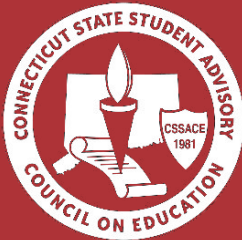


25th Annual

CHALLENGE TO EDUCATIONAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD PROGRAM



JUNE 9, 2020 | 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 25th 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 seven 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, Director of Student Activities, Connecticut Association of Schools

Masters of Ceremony

SSACE Students

Welcome

*Dr. Miguel Cardona, Commissioner of Education
Connecticut State Department of Education*

Remarks

Glenn Lungarini, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Schools

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

Martin Luther King, Jr.

2020 AWARD WINNING SCHOOLS

Bethel High School, Bethel, CT | *“Dear Bethel High School”*

In September 2019, a subcommittee of students from the BHS Student Leadership Summit, came together to identify, discuss and create an action plan to improve upon the school's biggest challenges. In order to combat discrimination and promote acceptance, a student group selected Diversity & Empathy as the focus area. The group developed a survey that was sent to all students/staff, asking for anonymous stories of discrimination and support, as well as volunteers to share the stories of others on film. They created a powerful film and developed an advisory lesson that was implemented on March 10th for the entire school. The next step is to analyze the feedback they received and continue to design ways to improve student empathy.

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

Socks for Soldiers began as a “basic concept” in December of 2008 when Chase McReynolds, a student at Wilton High School, was made aware of a need for socks for active duty soldiers and he acted. He contacted the founder of Kicks for Nick, Bill Madaras for the names of soldiers, who was collecting soccer balls in memory of his son Nick killed while serving in Iraq. Chase began a collection for socks. These socks have benefited US soldiers across the world including Iraq, Afghanistan, Alaska, and South America! The program quickly expanded to four specific drives per year and the group has collected over 14,000 pairs of socks for soldiers and veterans. The school also has “drop off boxes” available all school year long.

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” that engages the school as well as local businesses and adult volunteers to support their goal.

Bunnell High School, Stratford, CT | “Care Packages”

Bunnell High School’s Interact Club created boundless community impact by creating care packages for people in need. The care packages consisted of hand towels, toothbrushes, chap sticks, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, female products, other hygiene necessities, and heartwarming notes created by students. Their hope was to provide individuals with important necessities that they may need, and bring a smile to their face for the holidays.

Gideon Wells School, Glastonbury, CT | “Shoc Club”

The Gideon Wells School’s Shoc Club was established in 2015 and has impacted the lives of many in need. The club provides services to the community such as, cutting fabric for shoe parts for children in Uganda, making sandwiches for a local soup kitchen, raising money for breast cancer awareness, and making dog treats for local animal hospitals.

Scotts Ridge Middle School, Ridgefield, CT | “Musical Rescuers”

Aakarsh Patel’s goal is to raise money for a nonprofit affiliation with animals. Aakarsh and his team are doing this by collecting donations for playing an instrument, and donating 100% of all the proceeds made from selling a children’s book that Aakarsh wrote. This dynamic team plans to continue to bring a difference in this world by combining their passions and bringing more people to join them in making Musical Rescuers grow.

South Windsor High School, South Windsor, CT | “Interact Club”

Interact is a service-oriented club and youth branch of the Rotary International Organization. Its mission is to make a positive impact locally, statewide, and internationally. The student led committees host fundraisers to help refugees, contribute to hurricane relief, reduce pollution, and much more.

