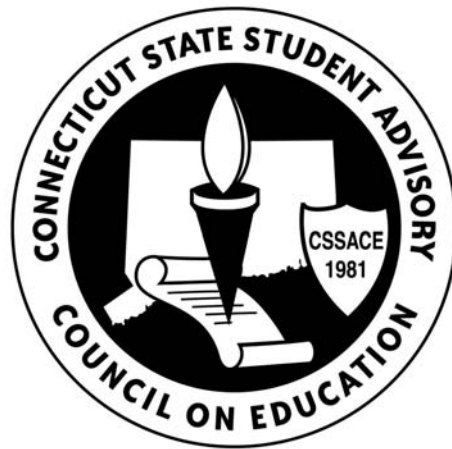


Twenty-First Annual
Challenge to Educational Citizenship Awards
Connecticut State Student Advisory Council
on Education



Connecticut Association of Schools
2016



CHAPLIN – Parish Hill High School

Superintendent Kenneth Henrici

Principal Brian Tedeschi

Faculty Lawrence Miller

Student Cassidy Martin

Empty Bowls 2016

Working with her Art Teacher to hold the event this April, Cassidy made bowls on pottery wheels, and then hand painted and fired the bowls to sell at the event. All of the proceeds go to the local soup kitchen. On average, about 13 hours per week was spent to create the 600 - 800 bowls needed to serve all of the people from the community who attend each year. Most recently, a school wide event was organized where each student painted a bowl so that each person could take part in this amazing event. Cassidy does an Independent Study one period a day to work on the project, as well as stay at school until 7 pm on Thursdays, coming in from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturdays, and regularly staying late after school. She has been working very hard to ensure that the school's annual donation of \$6,000 - \$8,000 will be continued this year to provide for those in need in the community.

DANBURY – Danbury High School

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| Superintendent | Dr. Sal Pascarella |
| Principal | Gary Bocaccio |
| Faculty | Susan Schullery |
| Student | Natalia Szurawski |

Say Something

The Say Something Initiative created awareness of gun violence, chronic isolation, and suicide within school and directly affected over 3000 students. Students participated with a photo booth that was hash tagged on social media reaching thousands along with posters, pledges, and videos. The project received the attention of Governor Malloy, Mayor Boughton, and the Superintendents throughout the state of Connecticut. This initiative began on August of 2015 with more than ten hours a week being dedicated. The final weeks prior to Say Something Awareness Week were close to twenty dedicated hours. This program is now a Statewide Senator Proclaimed Awareness Week.

DANBURY – Danbury High School

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|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Superintendent | Dr. Sal Pascarella |
| Principal | Gary Bocaccio |
| Faculty | Susan Schullery |
| Students | Isabel Gustems and Lizzy Newbold |

Start With Hello

The Start With Hello Program prevents early occurrences of chronic social isolation and loneliness by fostering a community of connectivity in elementary and middle schools. Student ambassadors assisted all elementary schools in the Danbury Public Schools District in Call to Action Weeks. The program enlisted 42 students in Peer Leadership program at Danbury High School as well as piqued the interest of the National Honor Society, most of whom volunteered to support the week of activities. Student Transportation of America donated ten buses to allow volunteers to facilitate lunchtime games and conversation starters at all elementary schools in Danbury on February 12. Volunteers supported activities of National No One Eats Alone Day, where schools rearranged lunch seating assignments to encourage students to communicate and connect with others. The implementation of this program has garnered interest and support across the state, and many schools have indicated their plans to participate in the program in the future.

EAST HARTFORD – East Hartford High School

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|----------------|-------------------|
| Superintendent | Nathan Quesnel |
| Principal | Matthew Ryan |
| Faculty | Todd Szwed |
| Student | Ariagna Fernandez |

Hornetwing – S.O.A.R. (Student Outreach to Americans on Reservations)

With the support and guidance of CNN Top-Ten hero, Rochelle Ripley, students in the East Hartford High School learned about her non-profit organization, hawkwing, inspiring them to create awareness about the horrendous living conditions of the Cheyenne River Sioux in South Dakota while collecting the supplies they desperately need. As a project for their Human Rights class, they created a group called hornetwing and a campaign called SOAR (Student Outreach to Americans on Reservations) They are enlightening students within the school and the people in the East Hartford Community while collecting 2016 items including the following: baby products, canned goods, warm clothing, and hygiene products.

EAST HARTFORD – East Hartford High School

Superintendent Nathan Quesnel

Principal Matthew Ryan

Faculty Todd Szwed

Student Gracelyn Hutchins

iHornets: Apps for Autism

After learning there are nineteen nonverbal autistic students at East Hartford High School who share two iPads, students made it their mission to purchase and donate the educational resources they need and deserve. They started a variety of fundraising campaigns and sought donations from the East Hartford community. After their project made the Hartford Courant, they received generous donations from alumni, East Hartford residents and businesses, and people from all over Connecticut. Thanks to the contributions, they raised over \$5,000 to purchase and donate iPads. Now the teachers can utilize the best tools available to support their autistic students.

EAST LYME – East Lyme Middle School

Superintendent Jeffrey Newton

Principal Dr. Judy DeLeeuw

Faculty Anne Haling

Student Ellie Meredith

Maddie's Mad Food Fest

Ellie Meredith, an 8th Grade student at East Lyme Middle School, wanted to help a 4th Grade student, who bravely battled cancer, fulfill her wishes of raising money to purchase toys and electronics for children battling cancer at Yale Hospital. Ellie significantly helped Maddie make the long-lasting difference by raising \$7,500 for the Mad About Madeline Fund. Ellie received permission for the fundraiser from the Principal then planned and implemented Maddie's Mad Food Fest at East Lyme Middle School. She organized restaurants to donate their time, expertise, and a wide variety of delicious food samples. Ellie solicited over 50 volunteers to help run the Fest, and 60 donations for the silent auction, as well as secured live entertainment from a well-known local band. Ellie also emceed the Fest with Eyewitness News anchor, Eric Parker. In her efforts to help a child fulfill her wish, Ellie truly created a community event of caring that over 400 people attended.

MADISON – Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School

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| Superintendent | Thomas Scarice |
| Principal | Julianne Phelps |
| Faculty | Rachel Kilian |
| Students | Lacey Bozzuto, Karleigh Kokoruda, Taitum Maxwell, Henry Keller, Isabelle Vagell, Aeneas Huy, Paul Odyniec |

Peer Supporters

As Peer Supporters, the students have a mission to make sure that everyone feels comfortable and included. This program has been around for 8 years and this year consists of 22 student leaders 6th grade and 7 leaders in 5th grade. They meet once or twice a month to discuss how to make Brown Middle a better place. They are all role models and help encourage all students at Brown, approximately 415, to be their best. They help to organize school wide events that encourage students to be kind and include others such as “No One East Alone Day”, “Mix It Up Day”, “Start With Hello Week”, “Random Acts of Kindness Week”, and “Be The One Day”. They help the school know about these events by making posters and PSA videos. We also help out in the classroom by reaching out to other students if they are off task, need a partner for a group activity, need help being organized or if they just need a friend. All Peer Supporters were carefully chosen because of their leadership, kindness and helpful abilities. They enjoy having this opportunity to make the Brown School Community an out-of-this-world amazing place.

NORWALK – Brien McMahon High School

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|----------------|-------------------------|
| Superintendent | Dr. Steven Adamowski |
| Principal | Suzanne Brown Koroshetz |
| Faculty | Bob Kocienda |
| Student | Kelly Calderon |

Exploitation of Nail Salons Workers

Project Details:

The project, which is on-going, dates to September 2015, and falls under their Rights of Immigrants category. They established an eight-person team to conduct a literature search, interviews and field research in support of nail salon workers' rights. The team interviewed staff from the Connecticut Departments of Labor and Public Health; Connecticut's Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission; Norwalk's Department of Health; and several organizations in New York City, which played a leading role in protecting salon workers' rights. After the team familiarized itself with state labor and health laws that govern nail salons, members drafted a workers' bill of rights and conducted a field research at 17 nail salons in Norwalk. In groups of three, members visited each salon multiple times from October through February. During the course of their manicures, they handed out the workers' bill of rights; noted safety issues (no masks and gloves for the workers, poor ventilation, etc.); and interviewed the manicurists about their hourly wage, frequency of breaks, collection of tips, etc. Their findings were alarming; some flaunted Connecticut law. For example, not one of the workers was issued a letter of employment, which is used to explain workers' rights; scores of workers were paid well below the minimum wage of \$9.60 an hour (some were paid as little as \$3.25 an hour for ten-hour workdays); infrequent use of masks and gloves during manicures, complete lack of knowledge about the cancer causing agents in nail salon products; confiscation of tips by salon owners; and interrupted breaks or lunch periods.

Accomplishments:

Team members used this information to do two things. One, help the Permanent Commission on Status of Women draft and submit legislation for the current session in Hartford (see House Bill 5131; the bill is up for a vote in the Senate and House of Representatives). And two, convince the Norwalk Department of Health to increase the frequency of unannounced inspections to nail salons; require manicurists to wear masks for all procedures and the handling of chemicals; and require owners to review the chemical safety data sheet with every employee and explain how to handle the chemicals.

Current Status of the Project:

Team members continue to (a) visit nail salons to document wage abuse and workplace safety violations; (b) lobby legislators to pass House Bill 5131; and (c) lead public awareness sessions on street corners, outside of nail salons and in school. On May 3, members of the Center for Youth Leadership conducted a day-long vigil at school in support of nail salon workers. And on May 6, members of the Center did NOT wear nail polish to the junior prom to protest the exploitation of the workers.

2016 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

| School | Town | Project |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Bethel High School | Bethel | Trout Transit |
| Bethel High School | Bethel | Social Justice Club |
| Bloomfield High School | Bloomfield | The Do Something Club |
| Parish Hill Middle/High School | Chaplin | ACL Injury Awareness |
| Parish Hill Middle/High School | Chaplin | Special Olympics |
| Parish Hill Middle/High School | Chaplin | Walk to Cure T1 Diabetes |
| Danbury High School | Danbury | Soccer Saturday |
| Danbury High School | Danbury | Project Dance In Danbury |
| Danbury High School | Danbury | Zumba For Mac |
| Danbury High School | Danbury | Ball For A Cause |
| Danbury High School | Danbury | L.E.A.P. |
| Danbury High School | Danbury | Embracing the Issues in Aging: Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Seminars |
| Danbury High School | Danbury | Prom Dress Drive for Special Olympics Prom |
| John Winthrop Middle School | Deep River | Advisory Connection Team Community Service Projects |
| East Hampton High School | East Hampton | Manis-For-A-Cure |

2016 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| East Hampton High School | East Hampton | Relay for Life of East Haddam and East Hampton |
| East Hartford High School | East Hartford | Community Awareness Day |
| Synergy Alternative High School | East Hartford | Synergy Partnering with Pitkin Elementary to Go Above and Beyond |
| Howell Cheney Technical High School | Manchester | National Art Honor Society/Mural Wish |
| Harborside Middle School | Milford | Milford Kids Helping Milford Kids |
| Jonathan Law High School | Milford | Adopt A Family, Interact Club |
| Joseph A Foran High School | Milford | Giant Tag Sale |
| Joseph A Foran High School | Milford | Bowls for Beth El |
| Joseph A Foran High School | Milford | Plays for a Cure for Breast Cancer Research |
| Joseph A Foran High School | Milford | Project Linus |
| Platt Technicall High School | Milford | The Thanks for Giving Project |
| Platt Technicall High School | Milford | Beth El Shelter of Milford Dinners |
| Naugatuck High School | Naugatuck | Olivia's Valentines |
| North Haven High School | North Haven | North Haven High School Diversity Team |
| Kelly Middle School | Norwich | Anti Bullying Campaign Throughout Acts of Kindness |

2016 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

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|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| Norwich Technical High School | Norwich | Norwich Tech's Unite for Kindness Week |
| Norwich Technical High School | Norwich | East of the River Food Drive |
| Oxford High School | Oxford | Got Pink |
| Brownstone Intermediate School | Portland | Socktober |
| John Read Middle School | Redding | School Climate Committee |
| Newtown High School | Sandy Hook | Newtown High School Unified Sports |
| Newtown High School | Sandy Hook | Newtown High Unified Soccer |
| Seymore Middle School | Seymour | Small Steps of Seymour Middle School |
| Shelton High School | Shelton | Extraordinary Changes Club |
| Wooster Middle School | Stratford | The Chain of Kindness |
| Madison Middle School | Trumbull | Blankets and Pillowcases for Family Justice Association |
| Madison Middle School | Trumbull | Flower Garden Outside Our School |
| Madison Middle School | Trumbull | Green Light a Veteran |
| Madison Middle School | Trumbull | Para Cord Bracelets for Soldiers |
| Madison Middle School | Trumbull | Madison Middle School Talent Show |
| Madison Middle School | Trumbull | Valentine's Day Goodie Bags |

2016 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

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|------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Trumbull High School | Trumbull | Clothesline Project |
| Kennedy High School | Waterbury | Student to Student Mentoring: Our Kindergarten Buddies |
| Kennedy High School | Waterbury | Expanding Horizons: Meeting Needs in Another State |
| North End Middle School | Waterbury | The Kindness Club |
| Waterbury Arts Magnet School | Waterbury | Books and Blooms |
| Waterbury Arts Magnet School | Waterbury | WWII European Conflict Tour |
| Conard High School | West Hartford | Voter Registration |
| Windsor High School | Windsor | Hailey Strong for a Paws |
| Windsor Locks Middle School | Windsor Locks | Heritage Day - Celebrating Our Past, Building Our Future |