

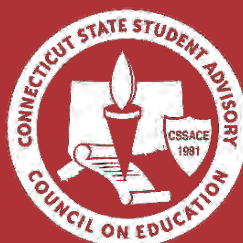
27th Annual



CHALLENGE TO EDUCATIONAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD PROGRAM



JUNE 9, 2022 | 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 27th 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 **twenty** winning entries that embody the spirit of citizenship and an altruistic commitment to serving others. 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

*Irene Parisi
Chief Academic Officer
Connecticut State Department of Education*

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

Martin Luther King, Jr.

2022 AWARD WINNING SCHOOLS

Norton School, Cheshire, CT | *"Community Service"*

The Norton School's student council is made up of approximately 20 5th and 6th grade students. As a group they do many things to create community within their school. Some of the service they have done is sending postcards and activity books to the Elderly, keeping the community warm by giving away gloves, mittens, hats, promoting Down Syndrome awareness, and a host of other services.

Norton School, Cheshire, CT | *"Throw Kindness like Confetti"*

As a group, the Norton School's student council works hard to connect and bring the school community together in many ways. One of those ways is a campaign called "Throw Kindness like Confetti." The campaign encourages students to be self-aware and practice intentional and purposeful acts of kindness. When students do something kind, they receive a tiny card that looks like confetti.

Madison Middle School, Trumbull, CT | *"Making Blankets for Kids in Ukraine"*

The "KARE" club at Madison Middle School has made and donated fleece blankets for the kids in Ukraine. A total of 20 blankets were made for this collection and 10 KARE kids spent numerous hours at school and home making them. The "KARE" club has made these blankets in other years but this time it was sent to kids fleeing their home in Ukraine. The "KARE" club has made a huge difference and will continue to, one blanket at a time.

Madison Middle School, Trumbull, CT | *"KARE Club"*

Collecting Supplies for Tornado Victims in Kentucky"- The members of KARE wanted to help the victims affected by the tornados in Kentucky. KARE and the students and teachers at Madison Middle School donated baby formula, first aid supplies, and other perishable items. By the end of December 2021 KARE had collected two 50-pound boxes full of supplies to help the victims.

Cromwell Middle School, Cromwell, CT | *"To Go Meal Community Service Project"*

Team 7-2 at Cromwell Middle School prepared over 80 hot to-go meals for the Eddy (homeless) shelter in Middletown, CT. Students spent multiple weeks planning the logistics of this project that would be cooked and donated to the facility. Approximately 40 students volunteered their time to stay after school to prepare and package these meals which included southern comfort and Italian themed meals. Ultimately, students were overcome with the feeling of tremendous satisfaction due to the fact that they showed compassion towards others in the local community.

Conard High School, West Hartford, CT | *"Computer Science Ambassadors"*

The "Conard Computer Science Ambassadors" (CS) of Conard High School are passionate about computer science and eager to mentor and share the significance of CS to the community. CS Ambassadors understand that not everyone feels equally welcomed to CS and continues to work to increase inclusivity.

Conard High School, West Hartford, CT | *"The Conard Earth Day Project"*

The "Conard Earth Day Project" consists of a team of 40 students who share the same mission to celebrate earth day, raise awareness and educate others about the planet and it's changing environment.

Coventry High School, Coventry, CT | *"PJ Day for the Kids"*

"PJ Day" has raised \$2 million in support of childhood cancer and care at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. In 2011, Nick Wesoloskie, challenged students to wear pajamas (PJs) in solidarity with kids, like his own little sister, Charlotte, who faced cancer. Participants were asked to donate \$1 or more. The event became a statewide phenomenon, with over 450 schools and 200 businesses participating this past year, in 164 of Connecticut's 169 towns.

Hall High School, CT | *"Letters for Rose"*

The purpose for "Letters to Rose" is to reduce loneliness in elderly people, who live in nursing homes in the community through letters and art. The West Hartford chapter has made and delivered over 185 letters and pieces of art to nursing homes. The club believes that the benefit of sending the letters and artwork to nursing homes, reduces loneliness and brings happiness to residents. Especially residents who may feel isolated due to the pandemic.

IAR Middle School, CT | *"IAR Diversity Club"*

The "Diversity Club" has been an operating group for 4 years and currently has 40+ members. They serve the underrepresented populations at IAR. Students have made bracelets in support of Ukraine, hosted advisories on Downs Syndrome awareness, Black History Month and much more. They have made the school community more inclusive.

Killingly Intermediate School, Dayville, CT | *"Forgive and Forget Club"*

The "Forgive and Forget" is an anti-bullying leadership program inspired and led completely by eighth grade students. The mission is to provide mentoring training and support to combat bullying and enhance connection with each other. 23 student leaders lead activities on inclusion, kindness, acceptance, videos addressing issues with bullying, and mentoring for the younger students.

Killingly Intermediate School, Dayville, CT | *"Leadership Club"*

KIS Student Leadership includes and unites students of all grades to learn to love. Not only does leadership prepare children for the world awaiting them, but it also contributes to their character and citizenship. The club created a "Kindness Project" this year. They got into groups and came up with phenomenal ideas that benefitted all. The student club provides a hopeful impact and influence on their peers.

Killingly Intermediate School, Dayville, CT | *"National Junior Honor Society"*

The purpose of the National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) is to have deep conversations and to come up with ideas and ways to strengthen the KIS community. In November of 2021, 34 NJHS students lead to bring in three or more items each for a holiday food drive for the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry. This gave back to the community and also gave the students a sense of joy and peace in return.

Maloney High School, Meriden, CT | *"Project Recovery Santa"*

The Maloney High School's medical club along with the Interact Club, collaborated to help the victims of the December 2021 tornados in the Southern U.S. and Ohio Valley. Students contacted the Red Cross and learned about a special fund they have to help people where needed. So, they decided to host fundraisers to add to the Red Cross Fund. They raised about \$350 and hope to continue throughout the year.

Simsbury High School, Simsbury, CT | *"Freedom Pen-a-thon."*

Students from Simsbury High School spent 22 hours making wooden pens for Veterans Day. The project started in 2016 in honor of the 3 SHS Alumni, one whom was killed in action and the two others who took their own lives after struggling with PTSD. The number 22 was chosen to bring awareness to the 22 veterans a day who committed suicide in 2016. The freedom pens crafted by the students are gifted to veterans and active military units as a token of appreciation for their service. This year's event raised over \$3,097.00.

Wallace Middle School, Newington, CT | *"Academic Academy Mentor Program"*

The "Academic Academy Mentor Program" launched in 2021-22 school year. Working collaboratively, 39 mentees (grades 4&5) and 16 mentors (grades 7&8) build relationships through homework help, SEL activities, and LEGO robotics. The program builds back the social skills needed to be kind and helpful citizens.

Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Waterbury, CT | *"Tri-M Music Honors Society"*

The Tri-M Music Honors Society is all about creating a change in the community through music. The students have organized 10 fundraisers, and events throughout the year. Tri-M members have hosted fundraisers throughout the year to donate, performed musical talents, and hosted an open mic night. They have used their music and talents to make change in the community.

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. Fourteen 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 | *"St. Baldrick's Group"*

The Wilton High School St. Baldrick's Group which started as a single day event fourteen years ago has blossomed into an annual fundraiser for the national St. Baldrick's Organization where they have earned over \$350,000 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.

Woodstock Academy, Woodstock, CT | *"B Club"*

The B Club is a group of students who are committed to the well-being and support of youth who face medical hardships. In the past year their care has expanded to the students not just at Woodstock Academy, but in the local community as a whole. The B Club's primary focus the last three years has been financially supporting three students during their battles with cancer. During this time, they were able to raise and donate \$25,000. The B Club has produced compassionate role models who value altruism by prioritizing the less fortunate.



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