

24<sup>th</sup> Annual

# CHALLENGE TO EDUCATIONAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD PROGRAM



JUNE 5, 2019 | 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 twenty-fourth 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 thirteen winning entries from a pool of applications submitted by approximately 35 schools. The recipients embody the spirit of citizenship and commitment to serving others, as well as altruism. Submitted projects were judged by the 18 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, CT Association of Schools*

## State Board of Education Representative

*Steve Armstrong, CSDE Social Studies Consultant*

## SSACE Presenters

*Bayan Galal, Woodland Regional High School, Beacon Falls*

*Audrey Garcia, Bethel High School*

# 2019 AWARD WINNING SCHOOLS

## **Bethel High School, Bethel, CT | Faculty Contact – Mari Lertz, Assistant Principal**

### ***“Kindness Week”***

The Kindness Week at Bethel High School is led by a committee of three seniors. The purpose of this initiative to bring families smiles and joy in their times of need. There are different themes each year. The theme in 2018 was “Color Your World with Kindness” and the 2019 theme was “Bethel Runs on Kindness” This week of kindness involves members of the community, students, teachers, parents, local politicians, and businesses in the town. Everyone shares a common goal of supporting families who are going through different illnesses with loved ones.

## **Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, Coventry, CT | Faculty Contact – Lisa McLean**

### ***“Kafe Kangaroo”***

The purpose of Kafe Kangaroo is to help teachers by cooking and serving a lunch for them. With six students working, there are at least eight staff, members who are served each week. Throughout the whole week students spend 3 ½ hours preparing, cooking, and serving. This project benefits teachers by giving them a break from bringing in lunch. In addition, students benefit from this because they learn money management, cooking skills, and responsibility; all while building positive relationships with teachers.

**Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, Coventry, CT | Faculty Contact – Elizabeth Crowl**  
***“Be the Change”***

The *Be the Change Leadership Group* believes in confidence, responsibility, leadership, hard work, friendship and giving. Twelve students enjoy building up these skills during the ninety minutes they spend together every Thursday. They joined community service projects like Environmental Action Day. The program has also led students to improve educationally by making honor roll and high honors for the first time.

**Coventry High School, Coventry, CT | Faculty Contact – Anne Tindal**  
***“Pajama Day”***

PJ Day for the kids is a statewide initiative at Coventry High School dedicated to helping kids fighting childhood cancer. The program was founded by student, Nick Wesoloskie in 2011 after his baby sister’s battle with cancer. The impact of the event is wide affecting hundreds of kids fighting for their lives. The funds raised are directed toward cancer research and clinical trials, patient care and the oncology family fund at the hospital. Additionally, the event has also inspired thousands of students and educators across Connecticut and has given an avenue to raise awareness to help others.

**Coventry High School, Coventry, CT | Faculty Contact –Jennifer Faenza**  
***“Tournament Night”***

Within the Albert Schweitzer club at Coventry High School, a tournament night was hosted to raise money for parents at the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Albert Schweitzer is dedicated to fundraising throughout the year leading up to the Huskython. The Huskython is a dance marathon where all the proceeds go to the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. This event has been hosted annually at Coventry High School for five years and events have included dodgeball, kanjam, volleyball, and basketball. Patients from CCMC sometimes attend and play alongside students in the games.

**East Hampton High School, East Hampton, CT | Faculty Contact – Dominique Galvez**  
***“East Hampton High School Spanish Club Homeless Shelter Outreach”***

For the last 8 years, the East Hampton High School Spanish Club students have developed a program to assist and connect with families and children living in homeless shelters. This year students organized various fundraisers to raise money for this cause. There are about 60 members of the Spanish Club who have contributed their donations and time to these student chaired projects. The overall goal of the program is to give students the opportunity to gain valuable leadership and service experience and learn how generosity, kindness and compassion can enrich their lives and lives of others.

**East Hampton Middle School, East Hampton, CT | Faculty Contact – Trish Seeley**  
***“Making Kindness and Caring Common”***

The Purpose of this organization is to provide EHMS students the opportunity to contribute to the community within which they live. Additionally, to provide the community with a positive profile of EHMS students as ambassadors of caring and kindness.

**Farmington High School, Farmington, CT | Faculty Contact – Russell Crist**  
***“Social Justice Week 2019”***

Gilly Gereg and Gia Goel are co-organizers for *Social Justice Week* at Farmington High School. Social Justice Week takes place in February where after 15 weeks of preparation, 21 students came together to present on a variety of social justice topics. Presentations take place all four lunch waves all week. The goal of this program is to start conversations about relevant and difficult issues to better not only the school but the community as a whole. Farmington High School believes that the key to a comfortable school environment for everyone is through education and understanding.

## **Madison Middle School, Trumbull, CT | Faculty Contact – Jeanne Malgioglio**

### ***“Mittens for Many”***

Students at Madison Middle school stumbled across a great need for homeless people after going out for dinner one evening. They noticed that the woman asking for money, had extremely cold hands. At that point they realized that no one should have to go through this. The mission for Mittens for Many is for everyone in the world to have a set of gloves and mittens to keep their hands warm. This year, after a tremendous amount of promoting, over 200 gloves, hats, and scarves were collected. K.A.R.E advisors and Madison Middle School played a huge role in making this event a success.

## **Madison Middle School, Trumbull, CT | Faculty Contact – Jeanne Malgioglio**

### ***“March Madness Penny War”***

Madison Middle School’s KARE club held the March Madness Penny War from March 21st to April 8th. Each team in every grade picked a March Madness basketball team and a charity. Milk gallons were put out in lunch waves for students to donate. Pennies counted as positive points and silver coins and dollar bills counted as negative points. Students learned about teamwork and strategic skills. The winning team raised \$1500.00 and donated it to the Make a Wish foundation.

## **Lyman Hall High School, Wallingford, CT | Faculty Contact – Kahseim Outlaw**

### ***“Unified Physical Education”***

Unified P.E. was created out of the necessity for greater inclusion and support for the special education students in the school. It has served 12 special and 27 regular education students during the 2018/19 school year. The course was designed, during the previous year, to meet the physical and cognitive needs of special education students assisted by “peer helpers.” UPE has been reinforcing the development of motor skills, physical fitness, social skills, confidence and empathy. This is all while helping students better understand how to assist peers with physical and cognitive challenges, and form positive relationships.

## **Wilton High School, Wilton, CT | Faculty Contact – Daniel Pompa**

### ***“Socks for Soldiers”***

Socks for Soldiers is a Wilton High School student led organization consisting of eight members that collect and donate new socks and other goods to U.S. soldiers and veterans. The goal is to make an impact on soldier’s day to day lives. In addition to sending socks to active duty soldiers, the organization has also been involved in assisting transitioning and homeless veterans through the Provisions for Patriots Program in Indiana and the Home of the Brave in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Socks for Soldiers will continue to grow with the goal of helping the warriors who have sacrificed so much to preserve our freedom.

## **Woodland Regional High School, Beacon Falls, CT | Faculty Contact – Christopher Tomlin**

### ***“Connecticut Governor’s Debate”***

The student government at Woodland High School organized a Connecticut gubernatorial in collaboration with an organization committed to fostering high school involvement in state-level elections. Four candidates for the positions of governor and lieutenant governor spoke on a panel and answered questions that reflected student concerns. One of the biggest lessons learned was “Debate and disagreement are not the end of teamwork, but the beginning of it.”

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

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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