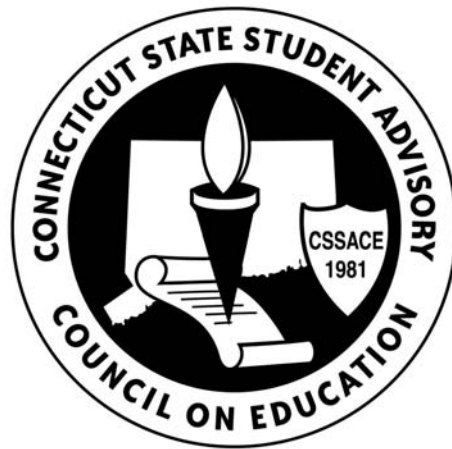


Nineteenth Annual
Challenge to Educational Citizenship Awards
Connecticut State Student Advisory Council
on Education



Connecticut State Department of Education
2014



BETHANY – Bethany Community School

Superintendent	Mr. John Barile
Principal	Mr. Robert Spino
Faculty	Linda Saffran

Sweet Dreams – Healing Quilts

The Bethany Community Elementary School (BCS) hosted its fourth annual Healing Quilts program Friday, December 6, 2013. During this event each student, with assistance from Amity High School (AHS) Community Action Club, created 200 Healing Quilts which were donated to the Yale New Haven Hospital “Sweet Dreams” program for the Pediatric Oncology Department. The Sweet Dreams program works on making the children on the oncology floor feel at “home” during bedtime. These quilts also help to keep the children warm, not just physically, but emotionally as well, as they progress through their curative process. In order to raise money to support this initiative, the BCS Leadership Council sponsored at “Pajama Day” event where each student was able to wear their pajamas to school and donate \$2.00 to the cause. With the funds raised during the school-wide Pajama Day, 200 fuzzy non-skid socks and 200 sleeping masks were purchased to include in the quilt donation.

The Amity Middle School-Bethany (AMSB) also hosted a Healing Quilt program coordinated by Mrs. Saisa, which also included making soft fleece pillows. Together the students at BCS, AMSB, and AHS created over 200 quilts. This community outreach activity modeled the importance of giving, not only during the holiday season but all throughout the year. Each quilt was wrapped with a ribbon to which was attached a student’s handwritten note of inspiration for the recipient.

The participants included 97 students for Bethany Community School along with staff members and parent volunteers, 100 students for Amity Middle School – Bethany and 20 Community Action Club members from Amity High School.

BRANFORD – Branford High School

Superintendent	Hamlet Hernandez
Principal	Lee Panagoulis
Faculty	Christopher Stonier
Student	Eden E. Wooster

Two Brothers’ Wheels

To provide reliable transportation for the struggling McCarthy family who has two wheelchair bound children with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and only had a dilapidated and failing retired handicapped equipped ambulance, Eden started Two Brothers’ Wheels and spent 8-10 hours a week for 13 weeks leading this effort. The fundraising initiative was featured twice on Channel 3, in local newspapers, and a Facebook page was created that reached people from around the country to gather their support. The initiative raised over \$35,000, allowing for the purchase of a van that meets all of the McCarthy’s medical transportation needs.

COLCHESTER – Bacon Academy

Superintendent	Karen Loiselle
Principal	Mark Ambruso
Faculty	Bridget Armstrong
Students	Marley Harlacher

Unified Arts

A passion for art and people led Marley to initiate a Unified Arts program in her school, so that students with disabilities and their artist partners could express themselves through Visual Arts. An example of the program's success is a work called "Chords of Color", 15 interactive canvases that combine art & music and can be changed by the view. "Chords of Color" was on display in a gallery in Uncasville, and was returned to the school in May. Unified Arts has benefited the Bacon community by building a connection through art.

FAIRFIELD – Notre Dame High School

Superintendent	Rev. William Sangiovanni, President
Principal	Chris Cipriano
Faculty	Chris Cipriano
Students	Matthew Lasky

26 Acts of Kindness Campaign

After the terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook, the Notre Dame community organized a 26 Acts of Kindness campaign. A different act of kindness was designated for each school day. Through the 26 day campaign, they collected the following: pet food (donated to the CT Humane Society), coats/sweatshirts (donated to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission), used sporting equipment (donated to local charities), children's books (donated to the Fairfield Kiwanis Club collection), and non-perishable food items (donated to the Operation Hope food bank). Letters of thanks were written to teachers, soldiers, and first responders. Other acts of kindness included: Be Kind to Yourself Day, Be Good to the Environment Day, Please/Thank You Day, Share a Compliment with Someone Day. The culmination of the campaign was a Community Service Day where 240 students fanned out to over 20 sites and volunteered their help to non-profit organizations. Now in its second year, we invited area public and private schools to join our campaign and about 15 schools joined. They hope to continue to expand the annual campaign next school year.

GRANBY – Granby Memorial Middle School

Superintendent	Allen Addley
Principal	Dr. Mark Foley
Faculty	David Kitzman
Student	Cecilia Milbrandt and Sarah Cusano

Sharing to Learn – Shaping the Future

Sharing to Learn is a community service club in Granby, CT that connects students with children and Makuleke, South Africa through a global learning exchange. Our students work to combat poverty by creating learning opportunities for others. They collect gently used school supplies and books to help stock a community library and furnish a preschool classroom in the highly impoverished village. The club consists of 45 seventh and eighth grade students. They meet during lunch and after school to organize collection of events and fundraisers. This year they filled a storage container with close to 200 boxes of supplies and children's toys for the village. Over the course of the school year they Skype and communicate via email with the children of Makuleke as well as cultivate future interactions to begin the process of a cultural exchange.

MIDDLETOWN – Cady School

Superintendent	Stephen Tracy
Principal	John Mattera
Faculty	Thomas DeFilippo
Student	Ty'Rante

The Connecticut Juvenile Training School Football Program

The CT Juvenile Training School (CJTS) is a secure correctional facility for adjudicated adolescents ranging from 12 – 17. While at CJTS, residents are introduced to pro-social activities to try to involve them with the community as much as possible. They have participated in fundraisers to raise money for the community food pantry, Flip Flops for Haiti, and the Student Council. They are taught that they are a valuable part of the community and shown the correct way to make a change, and to help break the cycle of hopelessness many of these young men experience. In 2010 the first football team was established. The goal of the team was to instill a sense of responsibility, pride, and a work ethic. One resident involved with the program, stated that he learned self-control, gained self-confidence, learned new skills, and became concerned about his grades because he had “lots of good coaches to keep me positive” As a school, they saw a group of individuals bond into a cohesive unit. Many of these students became emotional when speaking about how football has created a hope in them when perhaps they never felt that way before. They truly were a “BOND OF BROTHERS”. CJTS has seen some positive changes and would like to continue to offer hope to these young men to help break the cycle of hopelessness and poverty. Many of them are now expressing an interest in college so that they can continue their education and play sports, in order to better their future lives. These goals will help to educate another generation and replace hopelessness and fear with hope.

NEWTOWN – Newtown Middle School

Superintendent	Dr. John Reed
Principal	Thomas Einhorn
Faculty	Danielle Egan
Students	Ryan Patrick

Kids In Deed Organization

Our mission in KIDO is to work diligently in order to raise money in support of the Healing Hearts Center (Healing Hearts Center for Grieving Children and Families) in Danbury, CT. They are a group of eighth grade students from Newtown, CT. They have been working together for about a year and counting. Knowing that it will help Newtown families dramatically, they took it upon themselves to get involved with this important cause. So far, about \$34,000 has been raised by the group. The goal is to reach \$50,000. The money is donated to support construction of the new Healing Hearts playscape for grieving children. Healing Hearts holds 1,000 patients at a time, making the center and the playscape successful!

SANDY HOOK – Newtown High School

Superintendent	Dr. John Reed
Principal	Jeffrey Jaslow
Faculty	Brian Neumeyer and Lori Hoagland
Student	Sonya Stanczyk and Matt Baldino

Feeding the Need CT

“Feeding the Need CT” is a nonprofit organization created in February 2013, whose purpose is to curb hunger by providing nutritious and creative meals to local people in need. It is the result of the collaborative efforts of the Newtown High School Culinary Arts Program and the CT Food Bank. The mission is to share this food redistribution model with schools featuring culinary arts programs, to create a network of participating schools, which would provide nutritious meals to every shelter in every district of every state. Simultaneously, they aim to promote public awareness of the problem of hunger in the country. Since its inception, Newtown High School Culinary students have prepared over 16,000 meals and the model is spreading. The CT Technical High School System will be piloting the program in 4 of their schools in the spring of 2014

SHERMAN – Sherman School

Superintendent	Donald Fiftal
Principal	Mary Boylan
Faculty	Joanne Barry
Student	Gabi Kovalenko

Julia’s Project

The mission of the 8th grade was to honor fellow student, Julia Malsin, who had lost her hard-fought battle with aplastic anemia. Because patients like Julia spent a great deal of time in Boston Children’s Hospital’s Resource Room, the goal is to contribute supplies such as games and crafts. Fifty-two students wrote letters to stores and organizations requesting donations, and a web site was created. To date, they have received over \$1000 in merchandise and cash. In June a hospital representative will meet them to accept the contributions. The class is understanding the unpredictability of life, the treasure of friendships, and the satisfaction of helping others.

SOMERS – Mabelle B Avery School

Superintendent	Dr. Maynard Suffredini
Principal	Susan Muirhead
Faculty	Tammany Reynolds
Student	Emma Cheney

Project Water

The mission of Project Water is to bring awareness to students and teachers about the scarcity of clean water around the world and to involve the school community in helping others by raising funds to dig a well in an affected part of the world.

Six students have been meeting since September 2013 to raise money for the organization Charity: Water with the plan to donate the cost of digging a well. Two activities were already held. The first was a teacher drenching to celebrate math success. Students bought chances to the student pouring water on the teachers. During December, the students made and sold raindrop necklaces and keychains. This activity was enormously successful, raising over \$1200. In June, the students will be participating in a “Walk for Water”. They will walk for 7 hours during the school day to represent the many girls who can’t attend school because they need to walk for hours to provide water for their families. The group will look for sponsorship from community business and families.

Along with the fundraising, the group used the school television station to educate the students and teachers about the harsh realities of not having clean water. They created a showcase in a high traffic area showing the quality of water some people are forced to drink and to visually represent the money earned to date. With the help of a seventh grade Social Studies class, posters were made and displayed near water fountains, sinks, and bathrooms to increase awareness.

TRUMBULL – Madison Middle School

Superintendent	Dr. Gary Cialfi
Principal	Valerie Forshaw
Faculty	Jeanne Malgioglio
Student	Kristy Craddock

Handmade Hugs for Snowball Express

The students of Madison Middle School have made blankets for the Snowball Express – an organization that supports children who have lost a parent that was serving overseas. They did this because, although sometimes we claim we hate our parents, we would not know how to live without them. Parents play an important role in our lives no matter how old we get. With only 2 meeting times and most of the work done at home, 20 students were able to make 80 fleece tie blankets to give to 80 children a little glimpse of a hug from afar and to let them know that someone really cares about them. Madison has been involved in Project Linus for four years, and the teens love giving back part of what they have been given.

WILTON – Wilton High School

Superintendent	Dr. Gary Richards
Principal	Robert O'Donnell
Faculty	Lorraine Morlath
Student	Amanda and Elizabeth Craven

Rockaway The Storm With Books

Wilton High School found out the Scholars Academy ground floor infrastructure had been rebuilt and refurbished following Superstorm Sandy, but the book storeroom and classroom libraries had not been replaced due to lack of funds.

Rockaway the Storm with Books was initiated, named, and executed by sophomore students. Although 250 students were involved, the key leaders who spearheaded the events spent 90+ hours over the course of two months. Beyond the impact to our own students, the Scholars Academy has over 1200 students. Wilton students learned there is a lot of hard work and coordination of details to success – but it was worth it! After the class helped select the winning project title, they developed a logo, wrote press releases, web sites, and email communications.

The fundraisers included manning a table at the school wide Open House; supplying a “Can Game” for the Homecoming pre-game Carnival; multiple Bake Sales both in-town and at school; partnering with Barnes & Noble by manning a table and having an in-store display all month; and contacting several businesses, publishers, and book retailers seeking donations and discounts.

Books were packed by title and teacher request, delivering them on the one-year anniversary, Oct. 21st, at an assembly commemorating the progress made. They all ate pizza together and talked with students about the differences between their schools'; the Scholars Academy taught Wilton a step dance routine, and through Social Media they still stay in contact. The smiles on student and teachers' faces as they walked into their classrooms handing out books was a fantastic feeling and an everlasting memory

2014 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

School	Town	Project
Francis Walsh Intermediate School	Branford	Peer Leaders
Francis Walsh Intermediate School	Branford	Unified Sports
Francis Walsh Intermediate School	Branford	Helping Hands
Dunbar School	Bridgeport	Growing Through Service
High Horizons Magnet School	Bridgeport	High Horizons Magnet Student Tutor
Har-Bur Middle School	Burlington	Lunch Buddies
Canton Middle School	Canton	Canton Middle School Hearts to Support Soldiers
Parish Hill High School	Chaplin	"Be the Match" Save a Life Bone Marrow Drive and Educational Presentation
The Morgan School	Clinton	Swoosh For Change
Captain Nathan Hale School	Coventry	Community Problem Responders
Middlesex Middle School	Darien	Blankets for Preemies
Killingly Intermediate School	Dayville	Forgive + Forget Program
Derby Middle School	Derby	Project Purple
Derby Middle School	Derby	Derby Middle School Human Relations Club
Derby Middle School	Derby	"Pink Out" at DMS
East Hampton High School	East Hampton	Giving Internet by Giving Up Internet
Joseph Melillo Middle School	East Haven	Helping the Animal Shelter
CREC Public Safety Academy	Enfield	ICS Training
CREC Public Safety Academy	Enfield	Peer Tutoring
CREC Public Safety Academy	Enfield	Hands on Hartford
Enrico Fermi High School	Enfield	Rachel's Challenge - Friends of Rachel

2014 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

Granby Memorial High School	Granby	Granby Memorial High School National Honor Society's Empty Bowls Dinner and Silent Auction
Griswold High School	Griswold	FBLA/NHS Teens for Jeans
Griswold High School	Griswold	FBLA Spooktopia Night
Griswold High School	Griswold	FBLA Turkey and Food Drive
Griswold High School	Griswold	FBLA Toy Drive
Guilford High School	Guilford	Guilford High School Unity Week
Guilford High School	Guilford	Guilford High School End the R Word Campaign
Hamden Middle School	Hamden	Arden Courts Memory Care Facility
Haddam Killingworth High School	Higganum	Camp Rising Sun Holiday Show
State Wide Technical High Schools	Middletown	Student Congress Remembers Sandy Hook Tragedy by Helping Restore Camp Moe in Torrington
State Wide Technical High Schools	Middletown	CTHSS Fighting Homelessness One Community At A Time
State Wide Technical High Schools	Middletown	Student Congress Fund-Raiser for Donations to the CT Veterans Organization
State Wide Technical High Schools	Middletown	Efforts to Promote and Maintain the General Welfare, Education, Spirit, and Morale of the Student Body
Platt Technical High School	Milford	Platt's Presents
Platt Technical High School	Milford	Beth-El Soup Kitchen Dinners
Platt Technical High School	Milford	Names Can Really Hurt Us Program
Platt Technical High School	Milford	Hoops for Heart
Platt Technical High School	Milford	Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive
Platt Technical High School	Milford	Pink Panther Day
Jockey Hollow School	Monroe	The Help Haiti Club
City Hill Middle School	Naugatuck	The Kindness Campaign
New Haven Public Schools	New Haven	New Haven Public Schools Citywide Student Cabinet
Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School	New London	The Welcome Project

2014 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

Newington High School	Newington	Newington High School Irish Fest
Brien McMahon High School	Norwalk	Center for Youth Leadership's Mental Health First Aid Youth Team
Plainfield Center Middle School	Plainfield	Project PIN Thanksgiving Drive
Sherman School	Sherman	Mini-Town Meeting
Henry James Memorial School	Simsbury	Haunted House for the Hungry
Westhill High School	Stamford	Westyle
Madison Middle School	Trumbull	Coat Drive - Bridgeport + Rescue Mission
Madison Middle School	Trumbull	KARE'S Talent Show
Madison Middle School	Trumbull	Rainbow Loom Project
Madison Middle School	Trumbull	Solider Care Packages
Vernon Center Middle School	Vernon	Epoch Angels
Dag Hammarskjold Middle School	Wallingford	Dag Hammarskjold Middle School Builders Club
Sacred Heart High School	Waterbury	New England Cottontail Rabbit Conservation Project
W. F. Kaynor Technical High School	Waterbury	"Making Schools Nicer, Kinder, and Safer Places"
Watertown High School	Watertown	Veteran's Day Yard Cleanup
Northwest Catholic High School	West Hartford	Helping Hands
William Hall High School	West Hartford	"Do Something" Week
Windham Technical High School	Willimantic	Windham Book Buddies
Northwestern High School	Winsted	We C.A.R.E.
Amity Regional High School	Woodbridge	Teen Tech Talk
Woodstock Academy	Woodstock	Woodstock Academy Free Soccer Camp



2013 – 2014 State Student Advisory Council on Education

Students

Milo Barer, Joel Barlow High School, Redding
Amanda Binghi, Northwestern Regional High School #7, Winsted
Claire Buckley, Holy Cross High School, Waterbury
John Clark, Greenwich High School
Jake Colavolpe, Sound School, New Haven
Rebecca Dupre, Waterbury Arts Magnet School
Kylie Flanagan, RHAM High School, Hebron
Jason Gallant, Westhill High School, Stamford
Nicole Gauer, South Windsor High School
Jenna Goldsnider, Coventry High School
Nicholas LeMothe, Torrington High School
Danielle Letendre, Shelton High School
Hope Modugno, Fairfield Warde High School
Rizvan Mujic, A. I. Prince Technical High School, Hartford
Brittani Murphy, Bristol Central High School
Ellis Perez, Bullard Havens Technical High School, Bridgeport
Clayton Potter, New London High School/Science and Technology Magnet High School
Dylan Roach, Southington High School
Sophia Ronga, St Joseph High School, Trumbull
Giovanni-Marie Roper, Bunnell High School, Stratford
Jacob San Juan, Plainville High School
Natalina Schappach, Brookfield High School
Taylor Schwab, Suffield High School
Misael Suarez, James Hillhouse High School, New Haven
Mackenzie Ward, Wilton High School

Advisor

Mr. David Maloney, Assistant Executive Director
The Connecticut Association of Schools