

## Press Release - 2010 National Winners

For Immediate Release

### 13 SCHOOLS AND 2 SCHOOL DISTRICTS SET RECORD IN NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION COMPETITION

May 18, 2010 . . . Washington, DC – The Character Education Partnership (CEP) has named 13 schools and 2 school districts as the 2010 Winners in its National Schools of Character (NSOC) awards competition. A blue ribbon panel of experts broke precedent by selecting 15 award winners. Since the program began in 1998, CEP has only given more than 10 awards once when it gave 11. And the organization has never given the award to more than one district before.

CEP's Executive Director, Joe Mazzola, supports the idea of recognizing more exemplar schools and districts. "The character education movement in our nation continues to grow. Today, we simply see more schools doing amazing things in communities across the country. They understand how comprehensive character education can help them improve school culture, creating environments where young people flourish. We are honored to recognize more exemplar schools, celebrate their successes, and share their transformative strategies with others."

CEP, the nation's leading advocate for quality character education, chose the 15 National Winners from 166 applicants across the United States. Two-person teams visited 20 Finalists to see their programs in action before the panel of experts met to make the final selections.

National Winners are selected on the strength of their outstanding work in encouraging the ethical, social, and academic growth of their students through effective character education. The *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education*, CEP's framework for excellence in character education, guides the evaluation and selection of the NSOC Winners. Once they receive the NSOC honor, these schools and districts provide staff development sessions to other educators looking for ways to improve school culture, student behavior, and academic achievement."

NSOC Director Janice Stoodley says, "One of the outstanding features about this year's winners is the way they have all created a caring school community among students. The nationwide plague of bullying is not an issue at institutions like these."

National Winners will receive their awards and present a breakout session at CEP's 17th National Forum on Character Education, October 27–30, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero Hotel in San Francisco, CA. This year's theme is *Service and Leadership: Profiles in Character*. CEP will give each winner a \$3,000 grant to support its outreach efforts. In addition, CEP will showcase the winners' stories in its annual NSOC publication and on its website.

For more information about CEP or the NSOC awards program, visit [www.character.org](http://www.character.org).

#### **Character Education Partnership 2010 National Schools of Character Award Winners**

**Beverly Elementary School**, Beverly Hills, Michigan  
**School District of Jefferson**, Jefferson, Wisconsin  
**Julian Elementary School**, Julian, California  
**Kehrs Mill Elementary School**, Chesterfield, Missouri  
**Lake Carolina Elementary School**, Blythewood, South Carolina  
**Lore Elementary School**, Ewing, New Jersey  
**Mill Pond School**, Westborough, Massachusetts  
**Orrs Elementary School**, Griffin, Georgia

**Peters Township School District**, McMurray, Pennsylvania  
**Sarasota Middle School**, Sarasota, Florida  
**Seckman High School**, Imperial, Missouri  
**Seminole Elementary School**, Seminole, Florida  
**Sentinel Career Center**, Tiffin, Ohio  
**Sullivan Primary School**, Sullivan, Missouri  
**Upper Merion Area Middle School**, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

**Geographic distribution:**

The 2010 NSOC represent 11 states. Three states have two or more National Winners: Missouri (3), Florida (2), and Pennsylvania (2). In 2010, 29 states participated in the State Schools of Character awards program, a preliminary step in reaching the national competition. All 15 National Winners were from one of these 29 states and named State Schools of Character in their states.

**Demographics:**

All of the 2010 NSOC are public schools or school districts. Nine are elementary schools, two are middle schools, two are high schools, and two are K-12 school districts. One of the winners is a career center, another first in the 12-year history of the NSOC program. Most National Winners are located in suburban settings, although three are urban and three are located in a rural area. A number of the NSOC have student populations that may be described as low-income; 5 have one-third or more of their students eligible for free- and reduced-price lunch.

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