Tips for a Successful Forum

PLAN YOUR TIME
We have filled the schedule with an array of programming, but by planning ahead, you can make the most of your time. Be sure to take advantage of the built-in time to visit with exhibitors and network with new friends.

CHOOSE SESSIONS WISELY
Although you’re welcome to attend any session and will learn something from all of them, we have a coding system for you to find appropriate sessions more easily. See pages 4 & 25.

SHARE YOUR FORUM EXPERIENCE
Use the hashtag #character2019 to share your stories and excitement on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Be sure to follow us on each of those platforms for our own highlights throughout the conference!

2019 National Forum Sponsors and Supporters

Thank you to our sponsors! The conference would not be possible without their generous support.
Welcome to Character.org’s 2019 National Forum

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us here at Character.org’s 2019 National Forum in Washington, DC. This is our 26th annual conference, and whether you’ve been with us for all of them, like Hal Urban and Dick Pieper, or this is your first time, we’re grateful you’ve chosen to join us on this journey! The theme this year is “Navigating Character Journeys” because it’s a lifelong adventure to continually improve as a person of character. While each one of us is at different places along the path, we can all learn from each other’s experiences, successes, and even failures.

I hope that over the next few days, we’re able to honor the history that’s brought us this far and work toward even greater growth toward strong Communities of Character all over.

This year our keynotes will inspire and empower you for the next leg of your character journey. Learn how to get started with Tameka and Silas Montgomery, and feel their enthusiasm for a life well lived. Ponder how you will handle obstacles in your path after knowing how Scarlett Lewis handled adversity in her life. Discover how mentoring others teaches Clifton Taulbert to be a better mentor himself.

In between all that, we have 50+ amazing breakout sessions devoted to specific learning and networking for education, family, sports, workplace, higher ed, and international audiences. Character development can and should happen everywhere, and it’s our hope the Character.org National Forum continues to expand our content and discussions to bring more people around the table.

With The 11 Principles of Effective Character™ as our guiding framework, all communities can work toward more intentional and effective character development. Please join us as we keep these conversations alive all year long.

Sincerely,

Doug Karr, President & CEO
**PRE-FORUM EVENTS**

**8:00-12:00PM**  
**School of Character Site Visit**  
Hope Community Public Charter School is a 2019 School of Character in Washington, DC. Sign up for this off-site tour to see the school in action during a regular day. This committed staff has made great strides to strengthen Principle 4 and 7 with conflict carpets, JIF (Justice, Integrity, and Fun), and partnering with the community to expand character through athletic character cards and service projects. See what strategies and tools the staff, students, and parents utilize to implement *The 11 Principles of Effective Character*, and take back some ideas to consider adapting for your own community.

**9:00-12:00PM**  
**Using Prosocial Data to Guide School Improvement**  
The overall goal for this session is to support school leaders and leadership teams understanding and using data to promote Schools of Character. Specifically, school leaders will (1) review and reflect on current character education, social emotional learning (SEL), and school climate informed measurement tools and learning systems; (2) learn and use simple but powerful audit tools to consider your schools’/districts’ measurement practices now; and, (3) begin to develop short and longer term action plans to measure prosocial student as well as school improvement efforts in the context of the Principle 11 indicators.

Jonathan Cohen is the incoming Co-president of the International Observatory for School Climate and Violence Prevention; Adjunct Professor in Psychology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University; Co-founder and President-Emeritus for the National School Climate Center; and a practicing clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst. He is a member of the Council of Distinguished Scientists, National Commission on Social, Emotional and Academic Development, Aspen Institute and a member of Character.org’s Education Advisory Council. Cohen has worked in and with K-12 schools for over 35 years as a teacher, program developer, school psychologist, consultant, psycho-educational diagnostician, and mental health provider.

Phil Brown is a Consultant for the National School Climate Center. He has presented at numerous Character.org Forums and currently serves on Character.org’s Education Advisory Council. After serving in the NJ Department of Education, he created and directed the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University that conducted research on evidence based prosocial programs. He established the NJ Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development that developed the State Schools of Character program for Character.org. Among his publications are the two volumes, *Handbook of Prosocial Education* (2012) and *School Discipline: A Prosocial Perspective* (2016).

**9:00-1:00PM**  
**National Evaluator Training**  
Remember the joy of your School of Character site visit? Want to make a difference and continue your character journey? Join this training to learn how to evaluate applicants for National Schools of Character. We’ll go through the application, site visit, and report writing processes to teach you the skills you need to assess and encourage school personnel on their character journey while building your toolbox as well.
Pre-Forum Events

1:00–4:00 PM  **Education Advisory Council Meeting**  
Coolidge  
This closed meeting is for members of Character.org’s Education Advisory Council.

1:30–4:00 PM  **National Schools of Character Summit**  
Thurgood Ballroom  
Representatives from all 2019 National Schools and Districts of Character will come together for this session devoted to celebrating all of their achievements and also training them in their outreach and continued growth as character leaders. Photos will be taken at this time.

3:00–5:00 PM  **Early Registration and Exhibits**  
Outside Lincoln  
Exhibit Hall  
Beat the Friday morning rush to get your badge, bag, and Forum materials. Get a first look at the exhibits and a jump start filling out your exhibit passport for a chance to win prizes.

6:00–8:00 PM  **National Character Awards Gala**  
Thurgood Ballroom  
Join us as we celebrate people, families, and organizations who have made significant contributions to their communities. We’ll be recognizing individuals and groups who embody character in the areas of education, business, sports, and families.
7:00–8:00 AM  Registration and Exhibits
Outside Lincoln Exhibit Hall
Grab your badge, bag, and Forum materials before the first keynote. Take a stroll through the exhibits, and start marking off your exhibit passport.

7:30–8:00 AM  Breakfast
Lincoln Exhibit Hall
Grab some coffee and a light breakfast to keep you going while you explore the exhibit hall. Exhibits listed on pages 18 & 19.

8:00–9:15 AM  Opening Keynote: Getting Started
Thurgood Ballroom
Tameka Montgomery is a former presidential appointee who served as an executive at the U.S. Small Business Administration. She is the founder of a strategic advisory firm, the host of the podcast Raising Entrepreneurs, and a mother to three young boys. As a parent, she has observed what happens when kids are given experiences in entrepreneurship. They explore their interests and talents, become creative problem solvers, take initiative, and become change makers. Passionate about equipping families with tools and resources to foster an entrepreneurial mindset within their kids, Montgomery understands that entrepreneurial learning is about both a skill set and a mindset.


Apply to be a 2020 National School of Character

Your pathway to school improvement just got better!

Use The 11 Principles of Effective Character to guide your school to develop a caring community and School of Character.

Apply by December 6th
Visit character.org to learn more about the process.
9:30-10:45 AM Breakout Sessions

Tribal Stories: The Art and Science of Amazing Storytelling!

Thurgood Ballroom

Nothing engages the heart and mind of a student better than a story. You (yes you!) have hundreds of stories that are living inside of you...ready to be shared with the world. In this interactive and participatory workshop you will walk away with: ready-to-share stories you can use in your classroom; our “Story Cultivation” framework; tips, tricks, and tools on how to deliver your story for maximum impact. Watch your influence soar through the power of storytelling! Speaker: Joe Beckman

Joe Beckman’s mission as a youth motivator has been to reclaim human connection in school communities throughout the world. He has shared his infectious energy, humor, and passion in over 1,000 schools, positively impacting over 1 million people worldwide through student keynotes, leadership workshops, staff trainings, and video-based advisory curriculum. Beckman resides in Minneapolis, MN with his family and believes “Human Connection Matters.”

Promoting and Sustaining an Athletic Department of Character

Hoover

In this session, the speakers will share best practices for athletic programs for involving the community, charitable events, and service learning in sports. At West Milford High School, each athletic program emphasizes character first. In the beginning, they realized a number of their teams were already doing this, but over time, character education in athletics has become an expectation that has grown from the bottom up at WMHS. Coaches intrinsically value community involvement and student-athletes gain much more from high school athletics due to this commitment to service learning and character-based, education-based athletics. Speaker: Jessica DiNetta

Jessica DiNetta is in her 6th year as a health, driver and physical education teacher at West Milford High School, a National School of Character. She also serves as assistant coach for the field hockey and swim teams. She is a member of the School of Character Committee and District of Character Committee.

Schoolwide Gardens Rooted in Character

McKinley

Join us as we discuss how service learning impacted the culture and environment of Hillcrest STEAM Academy, a public school in suburban Kansas City. Attendees will hear the story of Hillcrest STEAM Academy and how they have grown in the past few years. Specifically, attendees will learn how the school started a garden and fostered learning experiences rooted in character. Individuals will learn about the full cycle of service learning, from idea development to servicing an entire community.

Speakers: Timothy Winkelmann and Melanie Ryberg

Timothy (TJ) Winkelmann helped open Hillcrest STEAM Academy in 2015. Since its inception, he has served as assistant principal, and at times, principal of Hillcrest STEAM Academy in Missouri. He is a firm believer in Conscious Discipline, 1:1 technology education, and educating the whole child. Winkelmann has worked with students from New York to California from all different backgrounds.

Melanie Ryberg has been with the Hillcrest STEAM Academy since it opened in 2015. She has 21 years of elementary education experience and has been involved with initiatives dealing with Conscious Discipline and the implementation of technology into daily learning.
Advancing Character Beyond the K-12 Classroom

Congratulations! You’ve successfully gotten your students to the K-12 finish line. Well done! Ever wonder what happens to their character development after that point? In this session, we will explore how one program at a Tier 1 research university approaches character development. This session is appropriate for both K-12 and post-secondary educators, as we will be exploring many of the common “character gaps” we see in new college students, and how we use specific, research-informed strategies to move beyond traditional right/wrong dichotomies. In short, we help them FIND their moral compass, FIX their moral compass, and FOLLOW their moral compass. Speaker: Dave Keller

Dave Keller is the Director of the Hollingsworth Center for Ethical Leadership for the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University. Prior to coming to Texas A&M, Dave completed a noteworthy 20+ year career in the U.S. Air Force, where he directed cadet character, ethics, and leadership programs at the United States Air Force Academy, including more than 120 annual seminars and primary oversight of the Academy’s acclaimed National Character and Leadership Symposium. Keller also served as the senior U.S. advisor to the Iraqi Air Force Academy in Baghdad, working side-by-side with Iraqi leaders to rebuild the Iraqi military.

### ELEVEN PRINCIPLES OF CHARACTER EDUCATION

**Effective character education:**

1. Promotes core values.
2. Defines “character” to include thinking, feeling, and doing.
3. Uses a comprehensive approach.
4. Creates a caring community.
5. Provides students with opportunities for moral action.
6. Offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum.
7. Fosters students’ self-motivation.
8. Unites staff through collaborative learning.
10. Engages families and community members as partners.
11. Assesses the culture and climate of the school.
**From Chaos to Calm**

Lincoln 2

Teachers are crying out for help. The behaviors they face on a daily basis are exhausting and overwhelming. Many teachers have amazing problem-solving skills and wonderful adult-child interactions. However, when faced with trying misbehavior over and over it is difficult to maintain the positive attitude they often have at the start of the day. In this session, teachers will learn more about changing feelings that lead to prosocial behavior. This session, focusing on the framework of Conscious Discipline, will inspire participants as we learn how to respond rather than react to perceived behavior problems. We will explore evidence-based strategies that create an emotionally/physically safe school environment as well as techniques to remain calm in the moments of chaos. **Speaker: Tracy Skripka**

Tracy Skripka is an educator in Pasadena ISD, with experience as a 2nd grade teacher, dyslexia and intervention teacher, and school counselor. Skripka also works as a Licensed Professional Counselor. She specializes in academic and behavioral interventions and is a Trauma Informed School Counselor. Skripka is a Conscious Discipline® Certified Instructor. She holds a Texas teaching certification for Generalist Early Childhood – 8th grade, and she is a TLC Level 1 - Certified Practitioner with the National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children.

**It Took a Village: Empowered, Inspired, Paying it Forward**

Lincoln 3

Not too many girls from a small village in Kenya who are survivors of insurmountable adversities have made it all the way to becoming a full professor and have all the opportunities Rotich has been afforded. It took the village/community of parents, friends, educators, coaches, and leaders to help her overcome the challenges and setbacks she encountered growing up. Today, Rotich looks back in celebration and continues to seek ways to pay back and pay it forward as a parent, educator, and mentor. **Speaker: Jerono Phylis Rotich**

Jerono Phylis Rotich is a tenured Full Professor of Kinesiology at North Carolina AT&T State University and a Research Fellow at Center for New North Carolinians at University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC. She is the CEO and Founder of WOYO (Women and Youth) Global Diversity Consulting, an educator, mentor, coach, leader, community engagement and character development champion. Her research focuses on community engagement and sports as a vehicle to promote health and character development.

**Changing Families: One Virtue at a Time**

Lincoln 4

In this session you will explore how to develop the virtues in a family setting. You will be introduced to the 5 strategies of The Virtues Project, how they can be effectively applied in the family and their relationship with *The 11 Principles*. Through guided activities, concrete examples and reflections, you will develop a deeper understanding of a revolutionary and simple way to foster a culture of character in the family. **Speaker: Sonia Kaba Pardo**

Sonia Kaba Pardo lives in São Paulo, Brazil. She has training as a Solutions Focused Therapist. Sonia has worked as a family counselor and in education for over 10 years. She is a founding member of Projeto Virtus, an organization focused on empowering educators to develop a culture of character in their schools and homes. Pardo is a sought-out presenter and gives frequent workshops for parents and teachers. Currently, Projeto Virtus is assisting in the implementation of a character education program in three public schools in the city of São Paulo.
9:30-10:45AM Breakout Sessions (continued)

The Virtues in Business: Does it Matter?

Justice, kindness, integrity are frequently used to describe a business’s core values, mission statement, or theories of leadership. Yet so many lack understanding on how to develop or embed these qualities in practice. Do they only focus on maximizing returns or lack a moral or ethical compass to drive decisions? Great businesses create conditions to inspire and empower. Their leaders understand how virtues — universal positive qualities of character — impact the bottom line, attract employees, raise brand awareness, and optimize team performance. In this workshop, we share best practices, obstacles, initiatives (leadership development, diversity and inclusion, mindfulness, ethics), and strategies that translate virtues into daily practice. Speaker: Dave Feldman

Dave Feldman is an entrepreneur, community builder, thought leader and international speaker. He co-founded three ventures: Virtues Matter, mobile app developer and initiative to build character; Livability Project, a sustainability consultancy; and Media4Green, content producer. He was previously founding director of Bethesda Green, a nationally recognized community hub and green business incubator; and Consul, at the British Embassy, helping foster strong business ties between the U.S. and UK.

Character Development through Community: The PBS KIDS Story

PBS KIDS harnesses the power of media, early childhood expertise, and innovative community engagement programs to enrich and inspire children ages 2-8, and to motivate and boost achievement, with a special focus on those most in need. Through the PBS KIDS Character Development Program, PBS KIDS will increase awareness of and promote engagement with PBS KIDS resources for character development by fulfilling parents’ need to connect by fostering a community through social media, and building real community cohorts through stations. These communities will not only connect parents with others, but will also serve as an opportunity to support parents in developing strategies to help their kids grow. The purpose of this program is to support the development of a model for community empowerment and content co-creation, leveraging PBS KIDS resources for character development. Speaker: Sara DeWitt

Over the last two decades, Sara DeWitt has worked at the forefront of new digital platforms, in an effort to be everywhere kids are: from websites and mobile apps to streaming video, augmented reality, 3D-rendered experiences, and wearable technologies. As VP of PBS KIDS Digital, she oversees the Kidscreen- and Webby-award winning pbskids.org website, PBS KIDS streaming video services, the PBS KIDS portfolio of educational apps for children, and the PBS KIDS for Parents digital experiences. Before her career in public media, DeWitt worked as a preschool teacher, a management researcher, and studied media habits of children.
11:00–12:15PM Breakout Sessions

How to Raise (Human) Goodness in Our Students and School

Thurgood Ballroom

What can educators learn from the latest science on empathy? Plenty. Especially in today’s plugged-in world of virtual workplaces, electronic communications, and increasing personal disconnection. This session points out that we’re all born hard-wired to care, but like all human qualities, the capacity for goodness must be constantly activated. You’ll learn dozens of easy ways to help students learn simple habits that cultivate empathy and instill kindness, courage, and self-control. Borba’s framework for nurturing goodness is from her latest book, *UnSelfie*, and is a call to action for educators to transform the way we teach and how children learn to be good. **Speaker: Michele Borba**

Michele Borba is an internationally renowned educator, award-winning author, and parenting, child and bullying expert recognized for her solution-based strategies to strengthen children’s empathy, character, and reduce bullying. She is an NBC contributor who has appeared over 150 times on the TODAY show. Her 24 books, including *End Peer Cruelty, Build Empathy, Building Moral Intelligence, and UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World* have been translated in 18 languages.

The Power of a Circle

Hoover

Join this session to experience community through circles, and take back ideas to use in your own classrooms that can help create stronger bonds among students (and staff). During this session, participants will understand the power of a circle by experiencing first hand topics that can be discussed while in circle. Topics will range from community building to harm issues. Participants will leave with the information needed to be an informed Circle Keeper. **Speaker: John Converse**

John Converse is an International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP)-Certified Trainer and has worked in education for the entirety of his career, including serving as an administrator and teacher in St. Louis Public Schools, a high-risk, low-income district, for more than 10 years. Converse combines his experience in education with his Restorative Practices training to create uniquely specialized trainings that help cultivate communities of educators that support one another.

The Impact of Character Education on the Workforce and Community

McKinley

It is critical that students are given opportunities to gain and strengthen character traits. According to educational institutions and youth advocacy organizations, it is important that students are raised to hold community service as a necessary value, and to be educated and well-informed citizens. Research has shown that students involved in the public safety career Exploring program in high school or earlier are developing into citizens who are more likely to vote, more likely to lead in their careers and communities, are physically and mentally fit, and are more engaged in their communities. Join this session to learn about the benefits of character development that span a lifetime. **Speaker: April McMillan**

April D. McMillan is the National Director of Programs for Boy Scouts of America. Prior to that, she had a 25-year career in biomedical research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). McMillan recently began serving as professional lead for BSA’s family Scouting effort. She is leading diverse teams of volunteers and professionals in the research, evaluation, development, and implementation of all aspects of welcoming the entire family to Scouting.
11:00-12:15PM Breakout Sessions (continued)

Coaching Character: Empowering Servant Leaders and Sustaining Positive Culture

In this session, we will present a comprehensive overview of a character-based, co-curricular athletic program. The presentation will provide an overview and rationale for implementing character-based athletics, the building blocks for creating a sustainable culture, and interactive activities directed at empowering student-athlete leaders, examining service opportunities, and reinforcing culture. **Speaker: Andy DiDomenico**

Andy DiDomenico is a History and Leadership teacher at Tappan Zee High School in Orangeburg, NY, Sprint Football coach at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and advocate for building character culture and social-emotional wellness in schools and education-based athletic programs. He has had the opportunity to share his mission and vision with educators and coaches nationwide and feels blessed to be back sharing at Character.org.

Character Education and College Admission: the Next Frontier

This session documents experiences (outdoor education, athletics, and coaching for character) that foster character development. We know, however, that character strengths, such as perseverance, resilience, and team work, are under-valued in deciding who gets into college. Even so, research shows that character attributes are the strongest predictor — long-term — of success in school, work, and life. Join this session as the panel reports innovations in college admission at prominent colleges and universities that elevate character attributes in deciding who gets admitted. **Speakers: David Holmes, Ray Diffley, Michael Schell, Brennan Barnard**

David Holmes, the founder and Executive Director of the Character Collaborative, has served as a school head in Connecticut and Idaho, tenured university professor, and nonprofit director. Over the past four years, he has convened educational leaders from across the “silos” of education to elevate character in education and in how youth are admitted to college. He has spoken and written on this topic for a wide range of audiences.

Ray Diffley worked in admissions at Choate Rosemary Hall for 23 years and in 2014 received the Enrollment Management Association’s Bretnall Award for significant contributions to the admission field. In 2016, he helped launch and support the Character Collaborative where he now serves on the Board of Directors. During the spring of 2019, Diffley launched the RD3 Education and Advising Center to serve both families and schools.

Michael Schell is the Director of Enrollment Management at Catholic Memorial School in Boston. He began his career at Groton School, where he discovered his passion for guiding students towards the college that will nurture their personal strengths and unique purpose. Schell founded The Cannonball Foundation, a nonprofit organization featuring a national network of NCAA college admissions counselors and coaches dedicated to shaping lifelong learners and leaders through the joy of baseball.

Brennan Barnard is the Director of College Counseling and Outreach at The Derryfield School, an independent day school in Manchester, NH and at US Performance Academy. He is also the College Admissions Program Manager with the Making Caring Common project at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Brennan is a member of the Advisory Board for the New Hampshire College and University Council’s New Hampshire Scholars Program and on the Executive Committee for the Character Collaborative.
Teaching Civil Discourse

In this politically polarized climate, how can we teach our students to express their opinions and respond to opposing views within the boundaries of civil discourse? In this session, we will explore steps, resources, and tested lesson ideas that guide students toward this goal. Civil discourse is not achieved by a simple lesson or unit, but rather a graduated process throughout the school year. With each unit, students realize that worthwhile debate must be based on research, analysis, and an open mind to alternative perspectives. When students debate from a place of confidence they can fully enjoy the gift of meaningful discourse and a productive exchange of ideas.

Speaker: Andrea Zimmerman

Andrea Zimmerman attended public school in Upstate New York, earned a BA in International Studies from George Washington University and an MAT from the University of Memphis. In her first 18 years of teaching with Title I Memphis City Schools she taught a variety of courses in social studies including US and World History, Practical Law, Contemporary Issues, and the International Baccalaureate course called History of the Americas. Zimmerman currently teaches Civics to all 8th grade girls at St. Mary’s Episcopal School in Memphis.

Digging Deep: Building Relationships with Our Toughest Students

This interactive and motivational session will remind educators why they started teaching. Participants will be encouraged to dive deep and embark on their own personal journey of identifying perceived roadblocks to building relationships. In addition, they will learn how to tap into their campus community to find those who are willing to make themselves vulnerable for the sake of building relationships and ultimately a culture of trust.

Speaker: Bridget Christmas

Bridget Christmas is a secondary administrator for Clear Creek ISD. She has spent the last 10 years working with children who are behaviorally disordered, have disabilities, or who have had life experiences that affect their ability to form relationships. She started her career in education as a math teacher and coach but quickly developed a passion for guiding the most challenging students. She has served as a behavior teacher, a district behavior specialist, and is currently a campus administrator. She is committed to helping educators understand and develop character within some of the most challenging populations within our schools.
11:00–12:15PM Breakout Sessions (continued)

**Mighty Core Values**

Core values can transform and fuel advancement of your institution! This session will focus on the powerful impact of collectively selecting and defining a set of core values that infuse and inform the day-to-day life of the institution. Our school has reframed programs; ignited the practice of developmental, collaboratively-built classroom norms; and nurtured and strengthened all members of our community. Participants will have ample opportunity to consider current practices and ways that some of these ideas might lead to transformative change in their own institutions. **Speakers: Shaysann Kaun, Liliana “Lili” Borrero**

Shaysann Kaun is the Director of Learning and Teaching at Colegio Nueva Granada (CNG) in Bogota, Colombia. As a private international school serving students from 47 different countries, CNG focuses on developing the fullest individual potential in each student with the ultimate goal of “developing character for leadership and service in the world of today for a better tomorrow.” CNG is currently examining, aligning, and improving its practices related to character development and education using *The 11 Principles of Effective Character* as a framework. CNG revisited, aligned, and launched new core values in August 2018 with powerful and catalytic impact.

Liliana “Lili” Borrero is a child psychologist with an MA in early education and is a NBPTS certified early literacy teacher. She works at CNG as the Associate Director of Learning Programs. She is the author of *Enseñando a Leer: Teoría, Práctica e Intervención*, a book published in 2008. She is passionate about education, but mostly about literacy instruction and character education.

**Wholeness, Healing, and Well-being for Educators**

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the challenging behaviors of some of your students? Are the challenges beginning to take a toll on you personally as well as professionally? If so, we invite you to participate in this highly engaging and meaningful session where you will learn simple strategies for putting on your own oxygen and creating a trauma responsive and inclusive culture of caring. You will leave refreshed and fortified with new tools and strategies, as well as with renewed idealism empowering you to create significance while maintaining joy both personally and professionally. **Speaker: Dara Feldman**

Dara Feldman is a passionate educator, author, coach, and consultant who champions character education, SEL, and restorative practices around the world. An educator for over 30 years, she is the author of *The Heart of Education: Bringing Joy, Meaning and Purpose Back to Teaching and Learning*. Honored as Disney’s 2005 Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year and Maryland’s 2015 Mother of the Year, Feldman facilitates meaningful experiences empowering individuals to live more authentic, joyful lives.

12:15–1:00PM Lunch, Networking and Exhibits

Enjoy some networking time in the exhibit hall as you grab your lunch. Chat with new friends, and see what the exhibitors have to offer.
1:15–2:15PM **Afternoon Keynote: Overcoming Obstacles**

Thurgood Ballroom  
Scarlett Lewis founded the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement after her son’s murder at Sandy Hook in December 2012. She decided to be part of the solution. Lewis is an advocate for social and emotional learning which teaches children how to manage their emotions. Speaking across the US and internationally to diverse audiences, she urges everyone to become part of the solution. The Choose Love Enrichment Program teaches children how to handle adversity and to respond with love. It includes the best of what is statistically effective to help reduce and prevent mental illness, substance abuse, bullying, and more.

2:30–3:45PM **Breakout Sessions**

**Weaving SEL and Character into the Daily Fabric of Your School**  
Thurgood Ballroom  
From his experience being in over 600 schools, Houston Kraft will share the high-leverage tools that have helped shape campus cultures toward more empathy, engagement, character, and compassion. Learn the low–burden, high–impact ways you can get students AND staff to focus on relationships with others by intentionally strengthening their character through simple and engaging activities. This resource-packed session is fast-paced, interactive, and will immediately help you impact school culture and climate.  
*Speaker: Houston Kraft*

Houston Kraft is a speaker, curriculum developer, and kindness advocate who has spoken at over 600 schools or events internationally. He was inspired to do this work at a summer leadership camp in Washington State in 2006 and has served on the camp staff ever since. In 2016, he co-founded CharacterStrong which offers curriculum and trainings that transform the way schools teach the whole child through social-emotional learning, character education, and equipping educators with practical tools to create a compassionate culture on their campus daily.

**Expanding Character Education to Professional Organizations**  
Hoover  
What does character education look like beyond the classroom? How can character education be emphasized after secondary education? This session will explore ways to teach character education in a professional environment while highlighting the cultural elements each organization needs for character education to thrive. Using past experiences, this session will review some practical applications to include implementation at the professional military education level.  
*Speaker: Andrew Francis*

Andrew Francis was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy in October 2003. Presently he serves as the Command Chaplain for Naval Support Activity Washington at the historic Washington Navy Yard. Prior to his selection as an active duty Navy officer, Francis served as a pastor and adjunct faculty at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, MA. He is currently a doctoral student at Regent University pursuing a PhD in Character Education.
2:30-3:45PM  Breakout Sessions (continued)

Coordinating Member Meeting

McKinley

Current coordinating members or anyone interested in helping to lead Character.org’s regional efforts to expand the Schools of Character program is welcome to join this meeting.

Was Your School Culture Formed By Design—Or Default?

Lincoln 2

School cultures seem disrupted today – misbehaving students, drugs, cliques, bullying, fear and anxiety, cheating, apathy, absenteeism, inconsistent parenting, home-school mistrust, etc. Successful organizations require a strongly united culture. Hyde School Founder Joe Gauld, seeking to develop the unique potential/character of students, discovered this truth during the last 50+ years. Halifax, PA Superintendent Bob Hassinger then spent 23 years adapting this culture. This session will explore ways to create positive school culture intentionally. Speakers: Joe Gauld, Robert Hassinger, Malcolm Gauld

Joseph Gauld has spent 68 years as an educator; teacher; coach; administrator; headmaster; parent/family counselor; consultant. He is the founder of Hyde Schools and helped found other schools utilizing the Hyde model. He was the 2016 recipient of the Sanford N. McDonnell Lifetime Achievement Award, is an author, speaker, and has made several media appearances.

Robert Hassinger has 37 years experience as a teacher, principal, and school superintendent. He helped his school adopt the Hyde School practices, and in 2001 Halifax Middle School was certified as a National School of Character. Over the years, these methods for culture development have transformed students’ lives and communities.

Malcolm Gauld has served as a history teacher, a championship coach in multiple sports, a head of school, and has held a number of different administrative posts. At Hyde School, Gauld recently completed a 30-year tenure as President in order to establish and launch the Hyde Institute, an organization committed to sharing Hyde’s unique brand of family-based character education with schools and communities across the country.
Innovative Strategies for Education Implementation

Lincoln 3

Education systems around the world, schools, and educators need to make a critical shift on what it means to educate. As we expand our understanding of the critical role of educators in building environments for learning, there needs to be corresponding efforts to find new ways to support and train school leaders and teachers. Educators will need to participate in responsive professional development, learn to embrace team building, model character, values and skills in addition to being student-centered, master facilitators. To make this shift requires new ideas and more reflexive thinking in terms of professional development, investment in resources as well as an openness to experiential models that can inform practice. In this session, panelists will share innovative educational models that borrow entrepreneurial approaches and out-of-the-box thinking to stimulate and inspire transformative changes across the education spectrum. **Speakers: Diana Kwamboka, Joseph Carvin**

Diana Kwamboka is the Program Director, Education at the Global Peace Foundation Kenya. With her passion in technology as an enabler to prosperity in entrepreneurship, Diana manages the Leap Hubs program in Kenya secondary schools. Leap Hubs are enabling environments providing training, expertise, mentoring, networking and space for students to develop business and social enterprise ideas.

Joseph Carvin is the founder and CEO of One World United and Virtuous, an organization committed to improving human understanding and cooperation. The primary vehicle is One World Youth Clubs which are in 6 countries. Previously Carvin worked in emerging market finance for 30 years with a focus on South America and recently completed 8 years as Town Supervisor of the Town of Rye, New York.

Embrace Challenge: Build Character Through Adversity

Lincoln 4

This presentation will inspire the audience to build character, teamwork, and leadership skills and create a positive mindset through embracing life’s challenges. Hear the funny, emotional, and motivating story of Eric McElvenny’s experience during the Ironman Triathlon World Championships. Learn how he got there and how character is measured by how we handle situations, not the situations themselves. **Speaker: Eric McElvenny**

Eric McElvenny is an amputee endurance athlete living in Pittsburgh, PA. He deployed three times as a Marine Corps Infantry Officer and on his final tour in Afghanistan, was wounded after stepping on an IED. McElvenny suffered the amputation of his right leg below the knee, a life-changing opportunity that began his next journey. Faced with a physical challenge and an uncertain future, he made a promise to himself to run an Ironman Triathlon. On his journey from the hospital bed to the finish line, he realized that the adversity he was up against and the techniques he used to reach the finish line could be used against the challenges we all entertain.

Join as a Character.org Member Today!

Want access to online resources, learning tools, and a dedicated community of character leaders? Take a look at our membership options to find the best fit for you. [character.org/join](http://character.org/join)
2:30-3:45PM  Breakout Sessions (continued)

Compassion or Control: What Is Your Goal?
Lincoln 5

Providing opportunities for students/children to be intrinsically motivated is critical as we help them navigate their character journeys. We will explore how we can assist children with doing the right thing, because it is the right thing to do especially when they make mistakes. Our discussion will center on embedding the teaching of character with discipline. This session will include an activity, practical steps, and “take aways” for you to use in your home, classroom, and school. Speaker: Tamra Nast

Tamra Nast is an educational consultant, Character.org national evaluator, and 11 Principles of Effective Character coach. Her background as a teacher, school counselor, parent, and character coordinator provides a wealth of experience as she teaches, coaches, and supports educators in embedding service learning, intrinsic motivation, and character development in schools and districts nationwide. She is currently working as the Director of Exchange and Learning at Character.org.

Guiding Staff to Get Out of School and Into the Community
Lincoln 6

This session will share ways teachers and school staff can go out into the community to build positive relationships with parents and other community members. By focusing outside of the school building, they can form great partnerships in the community, who can in turn do things to help the school be successful. Participants will learn about ideas such as home visits, staff service projects, and building successful mentoring programs. Speaker: Kristy Roberts

Kristy Roberts is currently starting her 3rd year as principal of Hanna Woods Elementary School in St. Louis County, MO. She has been a school administrator for 17 years and before that a classroom teacher for 9 years. This is her second time leading a campus to National School of Character certification.

4:00-5:15PM  Breakout Sessions

Choose Love in Education: Be Part of the Solution
Thurgood Ballroom

This is a powerful story of a mother’s decision to become part of the solution following the murder of her young son in school. Scarlett Lewis created a worldwide movement to choose love and invites all of us to join. She will discuss a revolutionary no-cost program that shows us how we can help cultivate a safer, more peaceful and loving world through social and emotional learning. We all must take responsibility for the health and well-being of our children, and there is something we can do! Learn an empowering formula that can lead educators and students to choose love in every situation. Speaker: Scarlett Lewis

Scarlett Lewis founded the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement after her son’s murder at Sandy Hook in December 2012. Scarlett decided to be part of the solution. She is an advocate for social and emotional learning which teaches children how to manage their emotions. Speaking across the US and internationally to diverse audiences, Lewis urges everyone to become part of the solution. The Choose Love Enrichment Program teaches children how to handle adversity and to respond with love. It includes the best of what is statistically effective to help reduce and prevent mental illness, substance abuse, bullying, and more.
**Friday, October 25**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 - 8:00 am</td>
<td>Registration and Exhibits Outside Lincoln Exhibit Hall</td>
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<td>7:30 - 8:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast Lincoln Exhibit Hall</td>
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<td>8:00 - 9:15 am</td>
<td>Opening Keynote: Getting Started Thurgood Ballroom</td>
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<td>9:30 - 10:45 am</td>
<td>Keynote: Overcoming Obstacles Lincoln Exhibit Hall</td>
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<td>5:15 - 6:15 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Reception, Display Session, and Exhibits Lincoln Exhibit Hall</td>
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<td>7:00 - 10:00 pm</td>
<td>Monuments by Moonlight Tour Check in at registration</td>
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**SCHEDULE at a GLANCE**

**Thursday, October 24**

- 7:00 - 8:00 am: Registration and Exhibits Outside Lincoln Exhibit Hall
- 7:30 - 8:00 am: Breakfast Lincoln Exhibit Hall
- 8:00 - 9:15 am: Opening Keynote: Getting Started Thurgood Ballroom

**Friday, October 25**

- 9:30 - 10:45 am: Keynote: Overcoming Obstacles Lincoln Exhibit Hall
- 11:00 am - 12:15 pm: Lunch, Networking, and Exhibits Lincoln Exhibit Hall
- 1:15 - 2:15 pm: Keynote: Overcoming Obstacles Lincoln Exhibit Hall
- 2:30 - 3:45 pm: Lunch, Networking, and Exhibits Lincoln Exhibit Hall
- 4:00 - 5:15 pm: Lunch, Networking, and Exhibits Lincoln Exhibit Hall
- 5:15 - 6:15 pm: Welcome Reception, Display Session, and Exhibits Lincoln Exhibit Hall
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm: Monuments by Moonlight Tour Check in at registration
Air-O-Sport provides a fun and innovative game that can be played by any group size or skill level. With versatile and adaptable gameplay, all ages love it because no one gets left out and everyone has a blast. Air-O-Sport is ideal for staff team building, PE classes, and after school activities.

[airosport.fun](http://airosport.fun)

**Character First**

Character First’s elementary curriculum is packed with stories, object lessons, discussion questions, and activities. Our ENGAGE bully prevention curriculum addresses the heart of bullying, character, and EMBARK is a new character-based leadership program for middle and high school that strengthens the character of your students through real-life scenarios and discussions.

[characterfirsted.com](http://characterfirsted.com)

**Character Strong**

Character Strong is an organization that provides curricula and trainings for schools internationally. Our trainings help educators infuse character and social-emotional learning into the daily fabric of any classroom or campus. Our curricula focus on character development in order to help students cultivate social-emotional skills, their emotional intelligence, and help them develop a stronger identity and purpose in school and in the world.

[characterstrong.com](http://characterstrong.com)

**Character.org**

Character.org focuses on defining and encouraging effective practices and approaches to quality character development and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. We are a nonprofit organization that strives to ensure every person is educated, inspired, and empowered to be ethical and compassionate citizens.

[character.org](http://character.org)

**CharacterQ™**

CharacterQ™ is a series of highly-effective, ready-to-use K-3 curriculum kits that incorporate social-emotional learning, positive character education, and mindfulness lessons that empower children to thrive both inside and outside of school. Children are taught explicit skills through the use of puppets, storybooks, drama, music, and art.

[characterq.ca](http://characterq.ca)

**Character Tree**

Character Tree has a new educational video subscription series for primary students that highlight positive character traits, exemplified by historical figures.

[charactertree.com](http://charactertree.com)

**Citrs**

CHARACTER COUNTS/CITRS feature the largest comprehensive character development initiative in the nation with Buffalo Public School District. To date, this initiative has impacted over 14,000 PK-12th grade students and their families across 22 schools. This initiative is a springboard for other school districts in the Western New York (WNY) region, providing the opportunity for this area of the country to become a national leader in character development. Talk to us about initial motivations, various tools and materials, best practices, and the positive outcomes to date.

[citrs.org & charactercounts.org](http://citrs.org & charactercounts.org)

**Conscious Discipline**

Conscious Discipline provides a comprehensive, trauma-informed social-emotional program that is based on current brain research, child development information, and developmentally appropriate practices. All aspects of Conscious Discipline focus on creating a safe, connected environment for children to learn and practice the skills needed for healthy social, emotional, and academic development.

[consciousdiscipline.com](http://consciousdiscipline.com)

**Global Game Changers**

Global Game Changers Student Empowerment Program is an innovative evidence-based curriculum that uses service learning to develop the whole child by building core social-emotional competencies, character, and leadership skills in elementary students. Using our Superpower Equation: MY TALENT + MY HEART = MY SUPERPOWER™, they learn to IGNITE GOOD!™ and be successful and engaged citizens.

[globalgamechangers.org](http://globalgamechangers.org)
# Character.org 19

**HOTEL MAPS**

**LOBBY LEVEL**

**HAPPY CAVEMAN**

Human Connection Matters! Happy Caveman’s mission is to reclaim human connection in educational settings throughout the world. Come stop by and learn about our: live events, video-based curriculum, incredibly comfortable t-shirts (they’re the best!), FREE High-5’s w/ EVERY visit! happycaveman.com

**JOURNAL OF CHARACTER EDUCATION**

The Center for Character and Citizenship, a Character.org partner, provides a home for the Journal of Character Education (JCE). JCE is dedicated to character education, from theory and research to practical application for school-based outcomes. Information from JCE assists you in doing the “good work” of character education better. characterandcitizenship.org

**KB INFINITY DESIGNS**

Marketing KB Infinity Designs provides books, posters, and music that emphasize positivity and character development for use in any classroom or home. kbinfinitydesigns.com

**MASCOT JUNCTION**

See how schools are using their mascot to teach character and positive behavior. Our Roll Out Kits are customized for each school, featuring their mascot in a variety of rules posters, matrix banners, award certificates, gotcha rewards, behavior clipart and other items designed to create a highly engaging mascot-centric school climate. mascotjunction.com

**ONE MORE PAGE (CONFERENCE BOOKSTORE)**

Purchase all your favorite Forum speakers’ books at the official conference bookstore being run by local bookstore One More Page out of Arlington, VA. onemorepagebooks.com

**SHOPGOODCHARACTER.COM**

ShopGoodCharacter.com offers over 100 different character cards, grade specific activity books, a digital playground, mobile apps, street signs, t-shirts, character rewards and student incentives. ShopGC is also home to Good Character Rocks!, a new K-5, grade specific character program that provides you fun new ways to engage your students. ShopGoodCharacter.com

**THE WAY TO HAPPINESS FOUNDATION**

The Way to Happiness Foundation provides education materials for children and adults to promote common sense values. The Foundation partners with community organizations, schools, businesses, and government entities to provide materials and training modules in audio/visual and printed formats including facilitator guides.thewaytohappiness.org

**TEACHKIND**

TeachKind helps schools integrate compassion for animals into existing curriculum through FREE lessons, classroom presentations, online resources, and more. We partner with schools on character-building initiatives to help prevent violence to animals and humans. We offer FREE training and materials for your school district of our program Share the World. peta.org/teachkind

**STOP BY**

- Happy Caveman
- Kid-Grit
- One More Page
- ShopGoodCharacter.com
- Mascot Junction
- TeachKind
- The Way to Happiness Foundation

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**MEZZANINE LEVEL**

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**WASHINGTON MARriott WARDMAN PARK**

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Fax: +1 202-234-0015
Toll-free: +1 800-228-9290
Sales: +1 202-328-2950
Sales fax: +1 202-387-5436
SCHEDULE at a GLANCE
Saturday, October 26

7:30 - 8:00 AM  Breakfast  Lincoln Exhibit Hall
8:00 - 9:00 AM  Keynote: Mentoring Others — Sandy Award Presentation  Thurgood Ballroom

9:15 - 10:30 AM  Thurgood Ballroom  Hoover  McKinley  Madison  Lincoln 2  Lincoln 3  Lincoln 4  Lincoln 5  Lincoln 6
  - I Came to This Great Conference: Now What?
  - Conquering Principle #11 in One Year
  - It's Not About You.
  - Schools of Character Application Q&A
  - Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast
  - Leadership through Sportmanship
  - Character Development Best Practices from the Philippines
  - Good News, Kind Words, and Funny Things: Creating a Caring Community in Your Classroom

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM
  - One School’s Journey to School of Character: First Steps
  - Character Development through Home Based Practices
  - If the Shoe Fits: Fostering Empathy Through Outreach and Community Involvement
  - Klein Serves
  - Character Remediation: Helping Kids Learn from Mistakes
  - Developing Student Leadership in Elementary
  - Leading Within: Knowing Self to Birth Greatness
  - Creating a District-wide Comprehensive Character Initiative

12:15 - 2:00 PM  National Schools of Character and Promising Practices Regional Lunches  Thurgood Ballroom (Northwest, Southeast)

2:45 - 4:45 PM  11 Principles Workshop Part 1  Lincoln 5 & 6

Sunday, October 27

9:00 - 1:00 PM  11 Principles Workshop Part 2  Lincoln 5
4:00-5:15 PM  Breakout Sessions

**Strengthening Character Using a Trauma Informed Lens**

Educators often feel their responsibilities go far beyond the classroom. They feel they are not trained to address the myriad of emotional and social needs of their students. Nevertheless, educators strive to understand the students in front of them and the impact their past experiences have on learning and behavior. Participants will explore the effects of trauma and the barrier it creates to learning. In this session, participants will receive tools and resources that help them reflect on their own practices and develop programs that can positively impact their students. **Speakers: Jennifer Frederico, Leslie Smith, Jaclyn Mongelluzzo**

Jennifer Frederico is the principal of Petway Elementary, a twice named National School of Character. She has 25 years in the field of education working as a teacher, reading specialist, and District Supervisor. As principal, Frederico spearheaded the character education initiative at Petway. She has presented several times at the NJASECD Conference. Frederico also led a regional symposium: “Using CE to Understand Issues of LGBTQ.” She has been instrumental in her own district and regionally in helping other schools develop their character programs.

Leslie Smith has been the social worker at Petway School for the past 16 years. She has been integral in the creation of Petway’s character initiatives, and she is essential to the program’s growth and development. Smith has been awarded the county’s Above & Beyond award for outstanding social work, is a three-time recipient of the school district’s Starfish award and named Petway’s Educational Professional of the Year. She has presented at the NJASECD Conference and co-led a regional symposium “Using CE to Understand Issues of LGBTQ.”

Jaclyn Mongelluzzo has been the assistant principal at Petway School for the past 3 years. Prior to that, she served the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District as assistant principal, high school English teacher, and coach for 13 years. Character education has always been a priority for Mongelluzzo. She attended the national conference on character education in San Francisco, and has helped integrate mindfulness programs for staff and students at Petway Elementary School. Mongelluzzo has become a leader in character development and has mentored district schools in their character journey.

**Are Teens and College Students Becoming Less Empathetic?**

Adults have been complaining about “kids these days” since the beginning of human history, and now is no exception. What are the implications of these views of youth? And are they justified by scientific research? This talk will summarize scientific research about generational changes in empathy, narcissism, and other related traits. Importantly, the work is based on young people’s own self-reports, rather than adults’ beliefs about them. **Speaker: Sara Konrath**

Sara Konrath is an expert on the science of empathy and kind behaviors. A social psychologist, she directs the Interdisciplinary Program on Empathy and Altruism Research (iPEARlab.org). Konrath’s work examines changes over time in empathy and related traits, and their health and well-being implications. She has developed two mobile-phone programs to help increase empathy in youth. She is an Associate Professor at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.
## Beyond the Lemonade Stand: Helping Kids Develop an Entrepreneurial Mindset

*Madison ①*

Join us as we explore essential components of entrepreneurial thinking and ways of supporting children in developing an entrepreneurial mindset. Participants will engage in hands-on activities allowing them to practice and utilize entrepreneurial thinking and skills such as goal setting, identifying a problem and solution, and practicing a sales pitch. During this session, participants will discover the benefits of entrepreneurial thinking both within the classroom and community and explore ways to foster the development of this mindset in youth. Unearth your entrepreneurial thinking and inspire youth to do the same! **Speaker: LaTonia Cokley**

LaTonia Cokley is the Director of Professional Learning for Raising Entrepreneurs and spent 10 years as a highly effective and engaging elementary and middle school educator and instructional coach. She enjoys working with educators to reimagine learning into experiences that foster increased student engagement. Cokley is passionate about building an entrepreneurial mindset culture where students take risks, make mistakes, and express themselves through project-based learning.

## Identifying Core Ethical Values to Build Your School of Character

*Lincoln 2 ① ②*

Core values are the foundation of comprehensive character education. Join 2 Schools of Character evaluators who recognize the challenge some schools face in distinguishing core ethical values from prosocial skills such as listening and conflict resolution and performance values such as grit and persistence. Participants will identify core values broadly and then the subset of core ethical values, define them behaviorally, discuss their application to a variety of school policy and academic objectives, and learn examples of how this process has supported successful Schools of Character applications. **Speakers: David Wangaard, Phil Brown**

David Wangaard is the President/Director of The School for Ethical Education (SEE) in Milford, CT. He was a math teacher and school principal in Alaska before earning his doctorate in Ed. Leadership. Wangaard has been applying character education strategies in schools since 1984. He has authored or co-authored three books for character educators, presented at many Character.org Forums, and currently serves on Character.org’s Education Advisory Council. His main focus with SEE is developing and implementing programs to improve student ethical functioning in support of positive character.

Phil Brown is a Consultant for the National School Climate Center. He has presented at numerous Character.org Forums and currently serves on Character.org’s Education Advisory Council. After serving in the NJ Department of Education, he created and directed the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University. Brown established the NJ Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development that developed the State Schools of Character program for Character.org.
Harnessing the Power of Schools of Character: ASCE...
4:00-5:15PM  Breakout Sessions (continued)

**Leveraging Professional Development and Mentoring to Promote School Leadership**

Join this session as we explain The Center for Character and Citizenship’s (University of Missouri–St. Louis) rationale for focusing so heavily on leadership development for character education over the past two decades. We will present our theories and related practices for effective character education through investing in the learning and development of school leaders. Attendees will leave the session with some of our professional development practices in Leadership in Character Education (LACE) and Character Education for Emerging Leaders (CEEL), and our model of the virtues of servant leaders, Cultivating Virtues in Leaders (CVIL).

*Speakers: Marvin Berkowitz, Melinda Bier*

Marvin Berkowitz is currently the Sanford McDonnell Professor of Character Education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is also co-editor of the *Journal of Character Education* and has authored over 100 book chapters, monographs, and articles on character education, moral development, adolescent development, and risk-taking.

Melinda Bier is currently the Associate Director for the Center for Character and Citizenship at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Her expertise spans the fields of education, teacher preparation, and development and instructional technology for teaching and learning.

**Successfully Engaging Parents in Character Development**

This session will teach educators about how to effectively engage parents in the development of character, with their kids, at home and provide points for parents to better understand what character is and how to foster it within their children and themselves. In this session, we’ll explore tools and strategies for parents and educators to utilize in developing character in their children and/or students. *Speaker: Steve Markel*

Steve Markel is Founder and CEO of Families of Character. Prior to developing Families of Character, he was a Senior Vice President American Funds and Partner of the Capital Group where he spent 21 years. Recognizing the challenges facing parents in developing children, Markel founded Families of Character in 2010, which helps parents develop character in themselves and their children. Families of Character has helped several thousand families grow in happiness and unity.

5:15-6:15PM  Welcome Reception, Display Session, and Exhibits

Network with exhibitors and attendees at the end of the first full day. Have some hors d’oeuvres while you explore National School of Character and Promising Practices displays.

7:00-10:00PM  Monuments by Moonlight Tour

Join us on this guided bus tour of Washington, DC with stops at the most popular monuments and sights like Lincoln, Jefferson, and the Capitol. An experienced bus driver serves as the guide offering interesting history and trivia throughout the tour. We pause for several minutes at each stop for you to get out, take a look around, and snap some photos.
7:30–8:00 AM Breakfast
Lincoln Exhibit Hall
Grab some coffee and a light breakfast to keep you going while you explore the exhibit hall. Exhibits listed on pages 18 & 19. Turn in your completed exhibitor passports to Registration at this time.

8:00–9:00 AM Keynote: Mentoring Others
Thurgood Ballroom
We will be recognizing Clifton as the recipient of the 2019 Sanford N. McDonnell Lifetime Achievement Award.

Clifton Taulbert, a member of Character.org’s Education Advisory Council, is an international consultant on the topic of character as an essential element of a good, caring and productive community within our workplaces. His work has taken him globally, and he was named a Time Magazine’s Emerging Entrepreneur. Taulbert has lectured on the critical role of character at Harvard University Principals Center, the United States Air Force Academy and within K-12 schools nationally.

9:15–10:30 AM Breakout Sessions

I Came to This Great Conference: Now What?
Hoover
Join this session to hear about the step-by-step, three year journey of these Texas educators that led to change in their school, inspired by simply attending the Character.org National Forum. Learn tips on how to start small, how to get buy-in from colleagues, and how to make change happen through working smarter, not harder. Leave this session with practical ideas and resources that will empower you to hit the ground running when you return home…no matter where you are on your journey! Speaker: Julie Hinshaw

Julie Hinshaw is an English teacher of 13 years who is passionate about authentic, embedded character education in her school and district. She is the founder and chairperson of her school’s Character Council and serves as a founding member of her district’s social-emotional learning committee. In 2017, Hinshaw was named Teacher of the Year for her district, and the following year, she led her school to National School of Character certification.

**ELEVEN PRINCIPLES OF CHARACTER EDUCATION**

**Effective character education:**

- **PRINCIPLE 1** Promotes core values.
- **PRINCIPLE 2** Defines ‘character’ to include thinking, feeling, and doing.
- **PRINCIPLE 3** Uses a comprehensive approach.
- **PRINCIPLE 4** Creates a caring community.
- **PRINCIPLE 5** Provides students with opportunities for moral action.
- **PRINCIPLE 6** Offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum.
- **PRINCIPLE 7** Fosters students’ self-motivation.
- **PRINCIPLE 8** Unites staff through collaborative learning.
- **PRINCIPLE 9** Fosters shared leadership.
- **PRINCIPLE 10** Engages families and community members as partners.
- **PRINCIPLE 11** Assesses the culture and climate of the school.
9:15-10:30 AM Breakout Sessions (continued)

Conquering Principle #11 in One Year

During Harmony’s School of Character application process, Principle 11 was their lowest scoring area one year but the highest scoring area the next year. The presenter will share how they transformed their campus and created buy-in while focusing on core values, stakeholder feedback, setting goals, and reflection. Speaker: Ashley Bowler

Ashley Bowler has been an educator for five years, the majority of her experience has been in New Hampshire high schools. She taught English before stepping away from the classroom to coordinate all things extra curricular. Growing up in rural New Hampshire, Bowler’s personal philosophies tend to be very “old school” including the importance of good character, so she is passionate about and proud to have worked in a school that has earned the title of a School of Character.

It’s Not About You

Leaving baggage at the front door to provide a service to others is easier said than done, according to this speaker. The mask she wore for several years blinded her ability to take care of herself and others effectively. Her personal experience of suffering in silence while working through a family struggle four years ago resulted in a renewed mission to focus on joy and adult care in the workplace. Hear ideas she has tried that have hit the mark, ideas that completely missed it and the need for adult self-care to be a focus for the workplace. Speaker: Ringnolda Tremain

Ringnolda Jofee’ Tremain is in her 16th year in education and is currently serving as a middle school Assistant Principal. She is a former elementary Principal/Assistant Principal and middle school Instructor/Coach. Tremain serves on various committees in and outside of her district. Currently, she lives in Texas with her husband of 22 years. They have two sons attending post-secondary school in the area. When not on campus, Tremain serves proudly at her church and leads trainings. She truly enjoys education and serving others.

Schools of Character Application Q&A

Join this session to learn the ins and outs of Character.org’s School of Character application. Come with your questions about what content to include and how best to go about the application process. Character.org staff will provide the guidance you need to submit your best application this year or in the future. Speaker: Tamra Nast and Lori Soifer

Tamra Nast is an educational consultant, Character.org national evaluator, and 11 Principles of Effective Character coach. Her background as a teacher, school counselor, parent, and character coordinator provides a wealth of experience as she teaches, coaches, and supports educators in embedding service learning, intrinsic motivation, and character development in schools and districts nationwide. She is currently working as the Director of Exchange and Learning at Character.org.

Lori Soifer is Character.org’s new School of Character Director after having served as a school leader, a School of Character evaluator, and a member of the Schools of Character Leadership Council.
Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast

Drucker’s “Culture eats strategies for breakfast” applies to schools, too. Culture, the “hidden curriculum,” sends messages 24/7 without awareness of the unintended impact like a teacher shouting, “Don’t shout.” Students learn mostly from adult modeling. Awakening Wisdom, a school culture approach, focuses on adult “beingness,” trust, and on school practices to promote SEL. Leaders learn how to promote adult SEL as well as to model the character habits desired of students for culture change. Speakers: Linda Inlay, Mason Hines

Linda Inlay collaborated with the founders of Awakening Wisdom, a school culture approach to social emotional well-being, and as principal of River School in California, she refined their approaches leading to National School of Character certification from Character.org. She has written articles for Educational Leadership and one for Middle School Journal titled “Creating a Culture of Respect Through the Implicit Curriculum.”

Mason Hines is a Facilitator with RESOLVE, a nonprofit that specializes in managing collaborative processes to solve critical environmental, health, and development problems. Hines focuses primarily on health issues and the intersecting social issues that affect them, including food access and safety, employment, housing, and education. Prior to joining RESOLVE, he worked for the American Red Cross, where he helped constituents effectively manage workplace conflict, raise sensitive issues, and strengthen team functioning.

Leadership through Sportsmanship

Due to the popularity of sports in today’s society, student-athletes are some of the most influential kids in your middle and high schools. The manner in which they conduct themselves, within the walls of your building and in your community, plays a major role in establishing the perception of your school culture. How can we as coaches and educators help cultivate positive character within our student-athletes that promote a nurturing, welcoming atmosphere at our school? By creating opportunities to practice leadership through sportsmanship. With authentic, hands-on activities, students learn the sound practice of valuing the contributions of others, positively influencing their peers, and respecting those who make opportunities available to them. Speaker: Mark Horbinski

Mark Horbinski has served as a teacher, coach, and official for 25 years including the past 15 years in Necedah, WI. He has coached numerous sports including track and field, cross country, football, and basketball. Additionally, Horbinski is a former college athlete and proudly served in the Army National Guard. Coach Horbinski has created a grassroots movement called WON80 that is leading a return to sportsmanship through awareness, education, and inspiration.

Character Development Best Practices from the Philippines

This session will offer some of the best practices from 5 Schools of Character recognized in the Philippines. Most of these are very practical, transformative, and creative strategies that have made the schools earn the prestigious recognition from Character Education Partnership Philippines (CEP Phils) and the Center for 4th and 5th Rs Asia. Speaker: Emanuel Rentoy

Emanuel Rentoy is a lecturer from the University of Asia and the Pacific. Rentoy founded a school, PAREF Westbridge School, in Iloilo City. He has occupied various posts including Principal of Intermediate School and Vice Principal of Southridge School. He is the Founding Executive Director of Character Education Partnership Philippines, or CEP Philippines and has been invited to speak all over the Philippines, as well as in Washington D.C., San Diego, and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
9:15–10:30AM Breakout Sessions (continued)

Good News, Kind Words, and Funny Things: Creating a Caring Community in Your Classroom

Hal’s #1 goal as a teacher was to bring out the best in his students. His motto and philosophy was “If you can reach ’em, you can teach ’em.” It all started with building caring relationships. He taught his students the power of positive words and helped them create a caring community in his classroom. He individually welcomed each student daily and began all of his classes with “Celebrate Today!” — sharing good news, expressing thankfulness, affirming words, and laughter. He explains these and other strategies in this lively and humorous session.

Speaker: Hal Urban

Hal Urban was an award-winning teacher for 36 years. In 2005, he received the Sanford N. McDonnell Lifetime Achievement Award from Character.org. He has spoken about character education more than a thousand times in 44 states and in several other countries. He is the author of 8 books, including 20 Things Good Teachers Do and more recently, Grandpa’s School of Life.

10:45–12:00PM Breakout Sessions

If the Shoe Fits: Fostering Empathy Through Outreach and Community Involvement

When defining and/or learning about empathy, most people encounter the well-known phrase, “put yourself in the other person’s shoes.” While this is a good way to learn about the concept, it is much more important to put empathy into practice. How can we do this? How can we foster empathy by involving students, families, and communities? In this session, participants will first learn about the various involvement and outreach initiatives that Campbell School has implemented to foster empathy in the school community and beyond. After that, participants will engage in a “make and take working session” with opportunities to collaborate with one another by brainstorming and constructing action plans to foster empathy through outreach in their own communities.

Speakers: Ed Porowski, Lisa Levin, Julie Anderson, Staci Gil, Brooke Kirschner

Ed Porowski is the principal of Campbell Elementary School, a National School of Character located in Metuchen, NJ. He has presented at the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development Forum and the 2018 National Forum focusing efforts on climate change in school communities. His school has implemented several initiatives to foster character development in the school which have received recognition as Character.org Promising Practices.

Lisa Levin has been an educator for 25 years, with 17 as a second grade teacher at Campbell School, balancing content area instruction with SEL based learning experiences. She is an active member of the District’s Social-Emotional Character Development Committee and the Campbell Values Committee, assisting in a various character-based initiatives.

Julie Anderson is a special education teacher at Campbell Elementary School, who has taught in multiple classroom settings. Collaborating with general education teachers, she has initiated service learning projects with her students to develop empathy in themselves while learning with a cause.

Staci Gil has been an educator for 22 years with 13 as a first grade teacher at Campbell School. She has been an active member of multiple committees including the District and School Instructional Advisory Council. Gil has been an integral leader in implementation of the character initiatives at Campbell School.

Brooke Kirschner has been an educator for 20 years, with the last 7 years as the assistant principal of Campbell Elementary School in Metuchen, NJ. She is the coordinator for the Campbell School Climate Team and co-chairs the district’s Social-Emotional Character Development Committee where she supports everyone in the development of a positive school culture and climate.
One School’s Journey to School of Character: First Steps

Are you a newcomer to character development? This may be the perfect first step to begin your journey! Five years ago, *The 11 Principles* were words on a paper, in a binder and on a shelf at Cambridge Elementary. Campus core values did not exist, and there was not a consistent character education committee to drive an initiative. This year, they were just recognized as a 2019 School of Character. Find out how they navigated their journey and the lessons they learned along the way. Highlights include service learning, curriculum integration, and how to help students to understand, reflect upon, and practice core values.

**Speakers: Lauren Boyher, Diana Cashion Dodson, Alejandra Martinez**

Lauren Boyher is a school counselor at Cambridge Elementary in San Antonio, TX that was recently named a 2019 School of Character. Character education has always been a passion since starting her counseling career in St. Louis, MO over 13 years ago. She has attended the Summer Institute in Character Education with Dr. Marvin Berkowitz and a two day intensive training with Character.org focusing on *The 11 Principles*. With her counseling partner, they made the commitment to create an intentional culture of kindness and empathy at Cambridge Elementary which grew into a district-wide initiative.

Diana Cashion Dodson is a school counselor at Cambridge Elementary in San Antonio, TX that was recently named a 2019 School of Character. With 32 years experience in schools, character education was always a focus whether as a classroom teacher or a counselor. She has attended the Summer Institute in Character Education with Dr. Marvin Berkowitz and a two day intensive training with Character.org focusing on *The 11 Principles*. She served on a task force to assist in revamping the district's character education initiatives which led to a district partnership with Character.org.

Alejandra Martinez is a bilingual teacher at Cambridge Elementary in San Antonio, TX, which was recently named a 2019 School of Character. She has 12 years of teaching experience, the last 6 years being part of the Alamo Heights ISD family, teaching 5th grade Spanish Immersion language arts and social studies. She believes that character education is the plate in which it all fits, not another thing on your plate. She serves as part of the Cambridge Elementary Character Initiative Committee for the district, in partnership with Character.org.

Character Development through Home-Based Practices

Health is defined as the state of complete physical, social, and mental well-being and not merely the absence of disease. This session will host discussions on how character can be developed through consistent observation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of a set of goals and checklists we desire to see in our children and in ourselves.

**Speaker: Ifeoma Udigwe**

Ifeoma Bridget Udigwe is a consultant public health physician and a fellow of the West African College of Physicians. She currently works in a tertiary health facility in Nigeria and co-ordinates the adolescent health clinic in her workplace. She is married with 3 young children. Udigwe is very passionate about the well-being of young people with particular interest in character development and has been a speaker in many youth events. She believes good character is the “real beauty” and makes the world a better place to live in.
**Klein Serves**

Meet the founders of Klein Serves, an initiative created and led by students who are embodying the Klein ISD Profile of a Learner by being values-driven leaders who are unwaveringly committed to serving the greater good. Their event, designed to serve others, allowed students to model student leader traits of being grateful, kind, and selfless. Discover how they created a culture of we not me volunteerism beginning with a day of service to give back. Students will also discuss how character-building opportunities from Klein Serves are developing their servant leadership skills.

*Speakers: Jessica Haddox, Kristen Haggard, Andy DeGuzman, Nadia Siddiqui, Ayisat Adegbindin, Shymaa Mohamed*

Jessica Haddox is the principal of Klein High School, a suburban 6A high school located in Spring, TX. She is passionate about building leadership capacity in her staff and students, specifically in the area of character development. Since her transition to Klein High School 3 years ago, she has worked alongside outstanding stakeholders that resulted in KHS being named a 2019 National School of Character.

Kristen Haggard is a Registered Nurse and has been a health science teacher at Klein High School for 13 years. She is a HOSA, Future Health Professionals, advisor where she mentors students as they compete in over 50 different healthcare related events. In the spring of 2018, Haggard envisioned the Klein Serves event and recruited and then mentored the leadership team of Adegbindin, DeGuzman, Mohamed, and Siddiqui to spearhead the inaugural event for Klein High School.

Andy DeGuzman is a Klein High School student and co-creator of Klein Serves.

Nadia Siddiqui is a Klein High School student and co-creator of Klein Serves.

Ayisat Adegbindin is a Klein High School student and co-creator of Klein Serves.

Shymaa Mohamed is a Klein High School student and co-creator of Klein Serves.

**Character Remediation: Helping Kids Learn from Mistakes**

We know that zero tolerance policies can be harmful for students. Imagine if someone wrote you off after one mistake. We’re all human, and we all make mistakes. It’s important to have the opportunity to learn from those mistakes and develop new practices. Through an interactive and fun talk, we will discuss how a proven program for character remediation in schools helps students learn from their errors in judgment. *Speaker: Rick Rubel*

Rick Rubel has served as the Distinguished Professor of Ethics at the Naval Academy for 15 years. He is also the Founder and Director of the Core Ethics and Character program. Rubel has served on the Maryland State Board for Character Education, and he is a member of Character.org’s Education Advisory Council.
Developing Student Leadership in Elementary

This session will provide an overview of the Lakeview Peer Leadership program including student training manual and badges. We will share the pre and post surveys we used to collect data and develop programs using the student voice. Lakeview has a host of student-led initiatives, and this session will explore how many of them work including Lakeview Lion Leaders, Morning Greeters, SMILE partners, Kindness Crew, service learning projects, and more. Additionally, we will discuss the use of social media to promote such programming. Participants will take away new tools to help you get started! Speakers: Debra Warner, Maribeth Hall, Elizabeth Baisley

Debra Warner is a School Psychologist/School Counselor with 18 years of experience in the field of education. She has been a member of the staff at Lakeview Elementary School since 2004, beginning her tenure as a member of the CST team then turning her attention to school counseling. Before her career in education, Warner worked for 10 years in mental health at St. Joe’s Hospital. Her diverse background in mental health and education is a valuable asset to the counseling department. Warner, along with her co-counselor, has been instrumental in the development of innovating programming that have changed the culture and climate at Lakeview School as well as the Denville community.

Maribeth Hall is a school counselor and Licensed Associate Counselor (LAC) in her second year at Lakeview Elementary School. She worked in the financial sector for many years before pursuing a career in school counseling. Hall also worked as a volunteer for Imagine, A Center for Grief and Loss and FISH Hospitality which assists homeless families with meals and shelter. In partnership with her co-counselor she develops new and creative programs to address the changing needs of student, staff and families at Lakeview.

Elizabeth Baisley is the proud principal of Lakeview Elementary School. After spending nearly 27 years in this learning community, Baisley knows collaboration among staff and partnering with parents breeds a community where student success and social emotional growth enable all students to be confident and creative builders of the future. She holds a master’s degree in Educational Leadership.

Leading Within: Knowing Self to Birth Greatness

This session, based off Sharon Parker’s successful book, will not only empower you to remember and tap into the 5-year-old child within, it will inspire you to reconnect with what should be most important to every human being on this earth, which is to know who you are and where you came from. Parker is eager to share the Seven Defining Principles of Knowing Self to Birth Greatness that’s helped her along her way. Participants will learn “The Power of Five,” how grace and power can birth greatness at home, work, and community. Speaker: Sharon Parker

This Sharon Parker is a Community Accelerator/National Historical Community Connector, new author, motivational speaker, community project manager, and American educator. Over the years, Parker has discovered the entrepreneur, community activist, youth activist, public servant, and unconditional loving mother and grandmother that always resided within her core being.
**10:45-12:00 PM Breakout Sessions (continued)**

**Creating a District-wide Comprehensive Character Initiative**

While a challenge to implement, successful district-wide character education initiatives do exist. These character development programs are making a significant difference in cultivating ethical, respectful, and caring school environments. By providing on-going professional development and support through Character Counts! with mentor/coaches, we have seen significant progress in changing attitudes and behaviors of adults and students. There are many schools with successful character programs, but fewer with comprehensive district-wide programs based upon effective practices. In this session, you will leave with the tools and techniques to replicate a character education program for a school district. *Speaker: Gary Smit*

Gary Smit has been a teacher, principal, and school superintendent. Now, the Dean of Faculty for the Josephson Institute, he trains educators and community leaders in character development throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Bolivia, Bermuda, and Nigeria. Smit has co-authored the resource handbook, *Living the Four-Way Test – The Rotary Ethical Leadership Framework for Youth*. His book, *Instilling Touchstones of Character*, is a practical guide with specific strategies to effectively teach 16 values and character traits.

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**12:15-2:00 PM 2019 National Schools of Character and Promising Practices Regional Lunches**

**Thurgood Ballroom**

Schools (and Districts) of Character and Promising Practices have grown so much in the last few years, we’re honoring them in smaller regional groups. Join us in the Northwest ballroom if you reside in the western half of the US or are here internationally. Join us in the Southeast ballroom if you’re from the eastern states. Help us celebrate those individuals and groups who have successfully implemented *The 11 Principles of Effective Character™* and created real change in their communities.

**East Keynote: Liz Huntley**

Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Huntley is an experienced litigation attorney and a committed child advocate. In addition to complex civil litigation matters, Liz also provides legal and consultation services to governmental and non-profit agencies that serve children and families. Liz recently published her personal memoir *More Than A Bird* which recounts her childhood journey from unimaginable darkness to radiance.

**West Keynote: Amy Johnston**

Amy Johnston has been in the field of education for 29 years. She spent a year with Dr. Marvin Berkowitz in his Leadership in Character Education Academy and the knowledge she gained there helped transform her school. Students, staff and parents adopted core ethical values of respect, responsibility, honesty and compassion and these values drive learning, discipline, relationships and success.
2:15-5:00 PM  **11 Principles Workshop Part 1**

Join this two-part workshop to take a deep dive into *The 11 Principles of Effective Character Education*, and start developing a plan for you to take back with you after the Forum concludes. Our certified 11 Principles trainers will provide real life examples, resources and walk you through this proven framework. **Speakers: Tamra Nast & Amy Johnston**

Tamra Nast, LPC, is an educational consultant, Character.org 11 Principle mentor, and is Character.org’s Director of Exchange & Learning. Her background as a teacher, school counselor, parent and character coordinator provides a wealth of experience as she teaches, coaches and supports educators in embedding core values, service learning, intrinsic motivation and social, emotional and character development in schools and districts nationwide.

Amy Johnston has been in the field of education for 29 years. She spent a year with Dr. Marvin Berkowitz in his Leadership in Character Education Academy and the knowledge she gained there helped her transform her school. Students, staff and parents adopted core ethical values of respect, responsibility, honesty and compassion and these values drive learning, discipline, relationships and success.

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**SCHEDULE of EVENTS**

**Sunday, October 27**

9:00 AM-1:00 PM **11 Principles Workshop Part 2**

Don’t miss the second half of this valuable workshop.

9:00-12:00 PM **Unstructured Discussion**

Come to these rooms at this time to engage in conversations, share experiences, and ask questions.

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### ELEVEN PRINCIPLES OF CHARACTER EDUCATION

**Effective character education:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Promotes core values.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Defines “character” to include thinking, feeling, and doing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Uses a comprehensive approach.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Creates a caring community.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Provides students with opportunities for moral action.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Fosters students’ self-motivation.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Unites staff through collaborative learning.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Fosters shared leadership.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Engages families and community members as partners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Assesses the culture and climate of the school.</td>
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
8:00 AM  School Site Visit
9:00 AM  Prosocial Data Workshop
9:00 AM  National Evaluator Training
1:00 PM  Education Advisory Council Meeting
1:30 PM  Schools of Character Summit
3:00 PM  Early Registration
6:00 PM  Character Awards Gala

FRIDAY, October 25
7:00 AM  Registration, Breakfast & Exhibits
8:00 AM  Opening Keynote
9:30 AM  Breakout Sessions 1
11:00 AM Breakout Sessions 2
12:15 PM Exhibits and Lunch
1:15 PM  Afternoon Keynote
2:30 PM  Breakout Sessions 3
2:30 PM  Coordinating Member Meeting
4:00 PM  Breakout Sessions 4
5:15 PM  Welcome Reception, Displays, and Exhibits
7:00 PM  Monuments Tour

SATURDAY, October 26
7:00 AM  Exhibits and Breakfast
8:00 AM  Closing Keynote
9:15 AM  Breakout Sessions 5
10:45 AM Breakout Sessions 6
12:15 PM Schools of Character and Promising Practices Regional Lunches
2:45 PM  11 Principles Workshop Part 1

SUNDAY, October 27
9:00 AM  11 Principles Workshop Part 2