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Character Education Partnership Announces 2014 National Schools of Character 41 schools and 3 districts honored

May 15, 2014 – Washington, D.C. – **The Character Education Partnership** (CEP), a national advocate and leader for the character education movement, today named 41 schools and three districts as 2014 National Schools of Character (NSOC). These schools and districts have demonstrated, through a rigorous evaluation process that character development infused in the curriculum and schools showcased positive impact on the schools' academics, student behavior, and school climate.

CEP has provided this program to K-12 schools and districts in the U.S. since 1998. Since its inception, CEP has awarded more than 250 schools with the distinction of a National School of Character. Character education is an educational movement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is the proactive effort by schools, districts, communities and states to help students develop important core ethical and performance values such as caring, honesty, fairness, responsibility, creativity, critical thinking, and respect for self and others. Character education provides long-term solutions to moral, ethical, and academic issues that are of growing concern in society and schools.

The **National Schools of Character** (NSOC) program is not a competition, NSOC provides an opportunity to receive feedback as well as recognition for growth and excellence in the area of character development as measured by CEP's **11 Principles of Effective Character Education** framework. CEP showcases the NSOC in an annual publication and on its website. The designated schools earn the right to use the NSOC name and logo for 5 years.

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan created a [video](#) to celebrate today's honorees.

"Each of the schools named a 2014 National School of Character has its own individual story of student success and inspiration for the surrounding communities," said Rebecca Sipos, CEP Interim President & CEO. "Additionally, this recognition is proof that these schools use character education at a very high level, which fosters an environment dedicated to preparing students to be more ethical, caring and engaged citizens. We are very proud all of the honorees and every school that submitted an application."

In March and April, all 50 NSOC finalists underwent an intensive screening process that included site visits, conference calls, and analysis of the impact of character-related efforts on academics, student behavior, and school culture as part of the consideration to be named a National School of Character.

CEP will honor these schools and districts at the 21st National Forum on Character Education to be held the weekend of October 30, 2014, in Washington, DC. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the National Forum, the NSOC program, and the 2014 national honorees.

2014 National Schools and District of Character

This year's NSOC represent 16 states.

Florida

Imagine School at Town Center, Palm Coast
Imagine Weston, Weston

Kansas

Circle High School, Towanda

Maryland

John Poole Middle School, Poolesville

Michigan

Derby Middle School, Birmingham
Harlan Elementary School, Bloomfield Hills

Minnesota

Community of Peace Academy, St. Paul

Missouri

Bernard Middle School, St. Louis
Blades Elementary School, St. Louis
Blevins Elementary, Eureka
Hiram Neuwoehner High School, Town and Country
Ladue Middle School, St. Louis
Lindbergh Schools, St. Louis
Margaret Buerkle Middle School, St. Louis
McKelvey Elementary, Maryland Heights
Mehlville School District, St. Louis
Oakville Elementary School, St. Louis
Oakville Middle School, St. Louis
Robert H. Sperrung Middle School, St. Louis
Sherwood Elementary, Arnold

New Jersey

Cheesequake Elementary School, Matawan
Cherry Hill Alternative High School, Cherry Hill
Gibbsboro School, Gibbsboro
James A. McDivitt Elementary School, Old Bridge
Lawrence Township Public Schools, Lawrenceville
Oxford Central School, Oxford
Pauline J. Petway Elementary School, Vineland
Raymond E. Voorhees Elementary School, Old Bridge

New Mexico

New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell

New York

Canandaigua Middle School, Canandaigua
Harrison Avenue Elementary, South Glens Falls
Smith Street School, Uniondale
West Sand Lake Elementary, West Sand Lake

North Carolina

Colfax Elementary, Colfax
Southern Guilford Middle School, Greensboro
Southwest Guilford Middle School, High Point

Ohio

Centerville Primary Village North, Centerville

Oklahoma

Hilldale Middle School, Muskogee
Sadler Arts Academy, Muskogee

Pennsylvania

Charles Boehm Middle School, Yardley

South Carolina

Saint Joseph School, Columbia

Texas

Southside Elementary School, Angleton

Wisconsin

Capitol West Academy, Milwaukee
Woodlands School, Milwaukee