

2010-11 Project Year Executive Summary

The School for Ethical Education (**SEE**) has completed 16 years of working to advance *ethics in action*. **SEE** continues to implement its core programs that include: Youth: Ethics in Service (**YES**) service-learning projects in elementary and secondary schools; Integrity Works!, which is focused on advancing strategies for academic integrity; *Laws of Life* essay writing as an assignment that helps students reflect on positive values; the John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* award that recognizes leadership that models positive character and our teaching and consulting programs that include contracts with schools, the University of Bridgeport and other agencies.

In 2010-11, approximately 160 students and teachers working on nine different teams participated in service-learning projects and practiced ethical reflection during *Youth: Ethics in Service (YES)*. The service-learning projects included the administration of a youth-philanthropy board and a variety of projects that served fellows students through mentoring/tutoring and one project completed *Books of Hope* that were sent to students in Uganda. Since 1998, there have been about 7,700 **YES** participants complete over 204,000 hours of service-learning. Most of these projects served local communities in Connecticut. If the participants had been paid at Connecticut's minimum wage, **YES** would have generated more than \$1.5 million in service value.



High school Academic Integrity Committee member speaking to elementary students about honesty as part of their community outreach while participating in SEE's Integrity Works! project (December 2010).

Integrity Works! concluded its fourth year working to promote academic integrity. One result of the Integrity Works! project has been the publication of *Creating a Culture of Academic Integrity: A Toolkit for Secondary Schools* by The Search Institute Press. The Toolkit contains narrative and strategies to help educational leaders advance academic integrity. **SEE** also self-published an E-Lesson and opened an on-line store to sell the E-Lesson and Toolkit from its website. The E-Lesson is written for secondary students to complete as a homework assignment to help them learn reasons and strategies to resist plagiarism.

SEE completed its 11th year hosting Connecticut's *Laws of Life* Essay Program this spring. Approximately 2,500 participants wrote essays that provided students in grades 5 to 12 the opportunity to reflect and write about the values they believe would help them live productive lives. **SEE**

recruits and supports local writing programs where the top essay writers from each participating school are submitted to **SEE** for entry in its statewide competition. Ten essayists were invited to be recognized as the state's top *Laws of Life* essay writers during an awards celebration the first week in May. The awards ceremony was combined with **SEE**'s fifth-annual Character Celebration, which also honored Curtis Welling, President and CEO of AmeriCares as the 2011 John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* award winner.

In addition to the **YES** and *Laws of Life* programs, approximately 2,100 others participated in **SEE** classes, workshops or activities that included Integrity Works! during the 2010-11 project year. School districts and the Character Education Partnership (CEP) contracted with **SEE** to provide workshops and consulting. CEP also invited Dr. Wangaard to serve on its Educational Advisory Committee. **SEE** staff continue to teach a series of classes through the graduate and undergraduate programs of the University of Bridgeport. Since 1995, approximately 117,000 participants have engaged in **SEE**'s programs to advance *ethics in action to create character*.

To read **SEE**'s full 2010-11 Annual Report, go to www.ethicsed.org and click on **About SEE**.

The School for Ethical Education is grateful to the organizations and individuals that have funded our mission to advance *ethics in action* in 2010-2011.

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