

The School for Ethical Education

Annual Report

September 1, 2014 — August 31, 2015

Ethics in Action Creates Character

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

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History

John Winthrop Wright founded The School for Ethical Education in 1995. As a nonprofit organization recognized as tax-exempt by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SEE provides courses and programs for teachers, parents and students to advance ethical behavior in schools and communities. Mr. Wright's vision for school improvement focused on expanding opportunities for teachers and students to learn how ethics in action creates character. This phrase became the school's motto and recognizes the power of positive ethics in the creation of character. The core ethical concepts or virtues Mr. Wright desired to promote included respect, responsibility, caring, justice, honesty, truthfulness, courtesy, citizenship and the principles of the Golden Rule. The goal of positive character development is integrated into all programs offered by SEE. With the passing of Mr. Wright in 1996, SEE continues to receive meaningful administrative support from Wright Investors' Service, a private investment management and financial advisory firm headquartered in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Vision

The School for Ethical Education (SEE) teaches strategies to (K-16) educators to put ethics in action for positive character formation of students.

Mission

The School for Ethical Education (SEE) recognizes the need for an increased focus on ethical behavior within human interactions. We also affirm the contribution of sound ethical reasoning in the advancement of ethical behavior. To promote our vision, SEE uses a variety of methods to provide educators strategies to support positive character formation in their students.



Laws of Life essayists during May 6 Character Celebration in New Haven, CT.

Program Year Summary

The School for Ethical Education (SEE) concluded its twentieth year while sustaining its core programs that include: Integrity Works!, which focused on advancing strategies for academic integrity in secondary schools; *Laws of Life* essay writing for Connecticut students (grades 5-12) to complete a writing assignment that helps students reflect on positive values; the John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* award that recognized Oz Griebel for business leadership that models positive character; the Youth: Ethics in Service (**YES**) program, that teaches strategies to implement service-learning and our teaching and consulting programs that included contracts with schools, the University of Bridgeport, Character.org (formally the Character Education Partnership) and other schools and agencies.

SEE administered Integrity Works! for an eighth year with funding support from the Richard Davoud Donchian Foundation. One Integrity Works! project focused on the creation of lessons to promote academic integrity in high schools. Teachers in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts designed and taught lessons in social studies, science or English that supported student ethical functioning with a goal to resist cheating. In collaboration with Dr. Jason Stephens (University of Auckland, NZ), SEE piloted professional development sessions to help teachers create their own lessons in support of student ethical awareness, judgment, commitment and action. SEE evaluated the student responses in pre and post lesson survey responses. SEE is continuing this project into 2015-16 with the addition of schools recruited from Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Sarajevo. SEE also communicated with over 6,000 schools via an electronic newsletter and marketed SEE's *Creating a Culture of Academic Integrity* a published "toolkit" with many resources for secondary schools, AMIS (Academic Motivation and Integrity Survey) and an E-Lesson (to help students resist plagiarism) via SEE's E-store. In addition, SEE administered its first annual Academic Integrity PSA contest and recruited, evaluated and recognized PSAs created by high school and university students that advocated for academic integrity. Selected 2015 Integrity PSAs links are posted on SEE's PSA program page.

Over 2300 students from 19 different schools participated in SEE's 15th annual Laws of Life Essay Program. The top ten essayists were identified and on May 6th a celebration was held to honor not only the students but their families and teachers as well. Over 110 guests attended the celebration at Amarante's Sea Cliff in New Haven. The 2015 Ethics in Action award recipient Oz Griebel, CEO of the Metro Hartford Alliance, encouraged the students to clearly identify their own character goals to pursue true success in life. Wrapping up the project year, Dr. Wangaard completed a chapter in support of best practices for academic integrity, which was published in Springer's Handbook of Academic Integrity, he was invited to review an article for the *Journal of Character Education* and join the editorial board of *International Journal for Educational Integrity*.



Student Integrity PSA creators at Character Celebration.

SEE Financials

SEE moved to its own office space in Milford, Conn in January 2015. Wright Investors' Service continues to provide meaningful operational support in terms of technology and administrative assistance. SEE's overall income for the year was \$251,775 and expenditures for the year were \$242,983. SEE will thus carry over the modest amount of \$8,791 into the 2015-16 program year.

Integrity Works! was meaningfully funded through a twelve month (two financial years) grant from the John Templeton Foundation where \$9,679 was released in this project year. *Laws of Life (LOL)* received donations of \$3,802, to administer a statewide *LOL* writing program and had cash expenditures of \$15,431. Growth in donations will be sought to sustain this excellent character-education program.

Teaching and Consulting income of \$7,033 represented a drop in fees for contracted services paid to SEE from previous years. Donations and payments to SEE's annual Celebration totaled \$10,425.

SEE continues to work to develop its base of individual and corporate funders to help establish a broader foundation of support for its mission. SEE welcomes the support of those who believe in the critical need to build positive character in support of the family, local schools, their communities and our nation. SEE's vision is a progressive work and is moving forward with the positive expectation to advance *ethics in action to create character*.

To join us and make a donation to advance a vision of positive character, you may contact SEE through our website – www.ethicSED.org.

Project Income/Expense Summary for 2014-15

The School for Ethical Education					
2014 - 2015 Summary (Year end 8/31/15)					
Program Related Income and Expense Statement					
	DEVEL.	INTEGRITY WORKS	LAWS of Life	TEACHING & Consulting	GEN. & ADMIN.
					Fiscal YTD TOTALS
OPERATING REVENUE					
Teaching, Consulting, Sales	0	0	0	7,033	0
Donations	0	400	3,802	0	0
Endowment contribution	19,874	104,337	8,281	28,155	5,049
Grants & Misc.	0	19,679	500	0	0
Celebration Dinner	10,425	0	0	0	0
Income from prior year	4,000	7,000	4,000	6,000	(1,957)
Previous period released	0	22,237	1,280	0	1,680
TOTAL	34,299	153,653	17,862	41,188	4,772
Percent of Income	13.6%	61.0%	7.1%	16.4%	1.9%
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Employee Expenses	15,735	88,790	9,984	22,291	3,934
Office Expenses	819	394	325	327	1,233
Travel Expenses	132	1,706	0	904	132
Outside Services	11,001	50,021	5,122	8,022	8,710
Project Expenses	447	12,006	0	448	500
TOTAL	28,135	152,917	15,431	31,992	14,509
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) -	6,164	736	2,431	9,196	(9,737)
All Figures Pending Audit					