

The School for Ethical Education Annual Report

September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014



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* in 2013-2014.

2013-14 DONORS

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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 Milford, 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.

Program Year Summary

The School for Ethical Education (SEE) concluded its nineteenth 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 program invited 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 recognized Cindi Bigelow 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, the Character Education Project and other agencies.



Laws of Life essayists with SEE Project Assistant Rachael Wurst (far right) during May 7 Character Celebration in New Haven, CT.

SEE administered Integrity Works! for a seventh year with funding from the John Templeton Foundation to study lessons to promote academic integrity in high schools. High school teams in Connecticut and New Jersey designed and taught lessons in social studies, science or English that support student ethical decision making with a goal to resist cheating. In collaboration with Dr. Jason Stephens (University of Auckland, NZ), SEE piloted the teacher professional development to create their own lessons and piloted the student measurement instruments to assess lesson effectiveness. SEE is continuing

this project into 2015 with the addition of schools recruited this spring from Massachusetts and New York. SEE also communicated with over 6,000 schools via an electronic newsletter and marketed *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 piloted its first annual Academic Integrity PSA contest and recruited, evaluated and recognized a high school class for its excellent student-created PSAs in support of academic integrity. The new Integrity PSA program infrastructure was created for marketing through SEE’s new website and example PSAs and the 2014 Pilot winner are posted on the program page.

Over 2,100 students from 15 different schools participated in SEE’s 14th annual *Laws of Life* Essay Program. Once the essays were written local judging occurred at the schools and one essay per every 100 students was sent to SEE for reading by statewide judges, including professors, authors, and writers. Essays were scored based on three categories: content, presentation, and grammar. The top 10 essayists were chosen and on May 7th, a celebration was held to honor not only the students but their families and teachers as well. Over 115 guests attended the celebration at Amarante’s Sea Cliff in New Haven.



The 2014 *Ethics in Action* award recipient Cindi Bigelow spoke of each student’s essay and how important values and “laws of life” are for truly successful living. One of the essayists, Abigail Immanuel, volunteered to read her essay, which focused on the importance of helping others, especially those in need.

SEE Financials

SEE continues to receive meaningful operational support in terms of office space, technology and administrative assistance from Wright Investors' Service (WIS). SEE's overall income (from cash, non-cash and accruals) for the year was \$256,438 and all expenditures for the year were \$226,632. SEE will thus carry over the modest amount of \$29,806 into the 2014-15 program year.

Integrity Works! was meaningfully funded through a twelve month (two financial years) grant from the John Templeton Foundation where \$32,772 was released in this project year. *Laws of Life (LOL)* received donations of \$5,975, to administer a statewide *LOL* writing program and had cash expenditures of \$13,476, which resulted in a modest deficit for this program. Growth in donations will be sought to sustain this excellent character-education program.

Teaching and Consulting income of \$11,291 represented fees for contracted services paid to SEE and includes course instruction at the University of Bridgeport and the sale of SEE publications. General donations to SEE came in response to requests solicited for SEE's annual Celebration and totaled \$9,950.

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.

The School for Ethical Education

Program-Related Income and Expense Statement

2013 – 2014 Summary

	Development	Integrity Works	Laws Of Life	Teaching	General & Admin.	Fiscal YTD
						TOTALS
OPERATING REVENUE						
Teaching, Consulting & Book Sales	–	–	–	11,291	–	11,291
Donations	–	–	5,975	–	–	5,975
SEE Endowment	10,694	72,988	278	11,791	7,857	103,608
Grants & Miscellaneous	–	32,772	–	–	80	32,852
Celebration Dinner	9,950	–	–	–	–	9,950
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE (Cash Basis)	20,644	105,760	6,253	23,082	7,937	163,676
Previous period revenue released from restriction (facilities)	3,405	25,815	5,106	4,823	851	40,000
Previous period revenue released from restriction (endow. management)	1,362	10,326	2,043	1,929	340	16,000
Current period revenue restricted for future use	–	–	–	–	–	–
Budget Surplus/(Deficit) from prior fiscal year	4,826	22,241	4,437	7,611	(2,353)	36,762
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE (Accrual Basis)	30,237	164,142	17,839	37,445	6,775	256,438
Percent of Income	11.8%	64.0%	7.0%	14.6%	2.6%	100%
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Employee Expenses	14,821	83,305	9,541	20,998	3,718	132,383
Office Expenses	1,482	966	264	431	921	4,064
Travel Expenses	176	2,948	–	1,110	31	4,265
Outside Services	9,543	18,204	3,671	4,095	2,548	38,061
Class Resources	–	7,268	–	–	591	7,859
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (Cash Basis)	26,022	112,691	13,476	26,634	7,809	186,632
Non-Cash Item (Facilities Expense)	3,405	25,815	5,106	4,823	851	40,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (Accrual Basis)	29,427	138,506	18,582	31,457	8,660	226,632
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) – (Financial Reporting)	(8,783)	(32,746)	(12,329)	(8,375)	(723)	(22,956)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) – (Cash Budget Tracking)	810	25,636	(743)	5,988	(1,885)	\$29,806

All Figures Pending Audit