

West Haven High Student Leadership Recognized with National Award

West Haven High School’s Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) has been recognized by The Character Education Partnership, (Washington, DC) with a *Promising Practices* citation for the AIC’s work to promote academic integrity at the school. The application was submitted last spring and the award certificate was presented to the school on November 4, 2011.

The AIC was first organized in 2008 and has been functioning as a student leadership committee with the sponsorship of Mark Consorte, Social Studies Department Chair at the school in collaboration with David Wangaard of The School for Ethical Education in Milford. Diana Ramadan, the current AIC President helped write and submit the AIC’s application for recognition.



Student taking integrity pledge at WHHS academic integrity pledge drive (November 18, 2011).

An example of the AIC’s project work was just completed this past week when the AIC conducted an Academic Integrity Pledge Campaign. In support of the campaign, the AIC had previously authored an academic integrity pledge, which states—

I pledge to be honest, fair, and respectful in all my dealings with fellow Westies. I will display my Westie Pride by not cheating, stealing, lying, or assisting others in doing so.

This pledge was printed on a business card with the AIC’s motto, *Reach for success, not just the answers*, and given to students who would recite the pledge at lunch time.

Students who recited the pledge were also given a plastic wrist bracelet in the school’s colors with *Integrity* printed on the bracelet.

AIC members ran the pledge drive from a table positioned near the food service area of the school cafeteria. A 4’by6’ AIC banner was posted on the wall behind the table. The banner noted in large print the Academic Integrity Committee and in smaller print the AIC’s motto noted previously.

One AIC member who volunteered to work at the pledge table noted, “I hope the pledge drive helps more kids want to be honest.”



Student displaying pledge bracelet at WHHS academic integrity pledge drive (November 18, 2011).



WHHS AIC students and teachers meeting their US Representative Rosa DeLauro on Capitol steps (October 30, 2009).

Students were recruited to read and take the pledge as they lined up for lunch or after they were finished with their meal. Students came individually or in small groups to inquire about the AIC Pledge table.

Several students were interviewed after they took the integrity pledge. Responses to the question, “How do you think the pledge drive and integrity bracelet will help WHHS?” included—“The bracelet will remind me not to cheat.” “I think this will encourage me to do my own studying.” “The pledge drive encourages us not to lie.”

In addition to the fall pledge drive, the AIC is planning several other outreaches to their own school and to others in the district. Projects that are in the planning stage include a movie night with an integrity theme and free refreshments, an essay contest with a focus on integrity and an outreach to middle or elementary schools were AIC members present lessons or skits on the value of integrity. The AIC has previously led the rewriting of the WHHS Honor Code and Honor Policies and continues to recruit students and faculty to participate in the monthly planning meetings. The WHHS AIC is a terrific demonstration of service-learning as a school project and is grateful for the past support provided by The School for Ethical Education’s Integrity Works! project.