



***Keeping Maine educators informed  
about current issues from the  
Maine Department of Education.***

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## ***Current Events Teacher Resource***

### **Constitutional Rights Foundation *America's Economic Crisis***

As our nation confronts its most serious challenge to the economy since the Great Depression, citizens can benefit from examining history and ideas surrounding previous economic issues and crises. The Constitutional Rights Foundation has compiled a series of lessons that we hope will prove valuable to students and educators alike. To view these lessons, please visit: <http://www.crf-usa.org/economic-crisis/americas-economic-crisis.html>.

## **Yale Fulbright-Hays Groups Project Abroad: Russia, July 2009**

PIER/European Studies at Yale University's MacMillan Center has applied for a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) grant to lead 14 high school teachers of social studies, history, world languages, humanities, and area studies from New England, New York, and New Jersey on a study tour/curriculum development project, Understanding Medvedev's *Russia in Historical Context*, in Russia this summer.

The proposed GPA will offer a rich and diverse range of experiences during a four-week study tour in Russia (July 5 – August 3, 2009) that will provide an in-depth view of its people and culture, constituting a unique opportunity to develop resource materials for teaching and for professional and curriculum development through classroom instruction, individual research, field visits, and home-stays in contemporary Moscow and historic Vladimir. Among the topics to be covered:

- privatization and the making of the new elite;
- daily life in the USSR and today;
- Russian public opinion;
- the media today;
- the rebirth of Russian Orthodoxy;
- education at the crossroads;
- the business world;
- individual initiative and entrepreneurship; and
- art and theater in the New Russia.

There will be an orientation conference at Yale July 2-4 and a series of five Saturday follow-up sessions, Sept. '09 through Oct. '10, to complete curriculum modules and to organize the dissemination of what participants have learned, including presentations at professional workshops and conferences over the next several years. Each participant will be required to pay a \$1,000 fee toward the cost of the program.

Yale is accepting applications now for early selection of participants, but grant approval is pending and the proposed GPA is contingent on funding by the US Department of Education. The deadline for application is March 20, 2009.

Information and applications are at <http://www.yale.edu/macmillan/pier/institutes.htm>. For more information contact Brian Carter, PIER/Out-

reach Director, Yale European Studies, at 203-432-3424 or at [brian.carter@yale.edu](mailto:brian.carter@yale.edu).

Sponsored by Yale's European Studies Council, the MacMillan Center, and the U.S. Department of Education through a Fulbright-Hays grant (pending).

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## **The Institute for Global Ethics Announces The 2009 Ethical Literacy® Conference**

The Institute for Global Ethics is pleased to announce the 2009 Ethical Literacy® Conference being hosted at the Brimmer & May School located in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts on June 24th - June 25th, 2009.

### **Day One, June 24th, 2009**

The first day of the conference will be filled with sessions to acquaint participants with the Institute for Global Ethics conceptual material, including introductory sessions on Ethical Fitness® and Moral Courage™. Participants will also be introduced to the Schools of Integrity research which underpins the Ethical Literacy® approach as well as key components of the Ethical Literacy approach, such as, the School Culture Assessment, follow-on services, and action planning.

### **Day Two, June 25th, 2009**

On day two, conference participants will be joined by members of participating Ethical Literacy® schools as they sit in on presentations delivered by Institute for Global Ethics staff, participating Ethical Literacy® school team members, and guest presenters for a full day of school-based ethics learning. Session descriptions TBA.

### **Registration Information:**

- Registration fee of \$250 includes 2-day conference access, breakfast and lunch both days, and a 1-year limited access to the Ethical Literacy® Learning Community Web site.
- Registration is limited to K-12 and community college administrators, faculty, staff, and students.
- Register online today by visiting: <http://www.globalethics.org/events>

For more information please email [education@globalethics.org](mailto:education@globalethics.org) or call 207-594-6658.

## **Grant Opportunity: National Council for the Social Studies**

NCSS is pleased to announce the launch of the History Channel's 2009/2010 *Save Our History* Grant Cycle.

The *Save Our History* Grant Program provides funding to history organizations that partner with schools on a local community preservation project. Since launching the *Save Our History* Grant Program in 2004, History, formerly known as The History Channel, has awarded over \$1M in grants to organizations and schools large and small, urban, suburban and rural, in the northern, southern, eastern, western and central United States.

During the 2009/2010 school year, History will again award grants of up to \$10,000 to historical organizations to fund hands-on, experiential educational projects that teach students about their local history and actively engage them in its preservation.

For guidelines and criteria, important dates, and to apply, please visit [www.saveourhistory.com](http://www.saveourhistory.com), and click on GRANTS. Applications are due June 5, 2009.

Any questions can be directed to [info@saveourhistory.com](mailto:info@saveourhistory.com)

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## **Panwapa Global Citizenry Education: Free Educational Resource for Young Learners**

Panwapa is an educational initiative targeting 5 to 8 year olds about global citizenry. The Panwapa initiative was created through a partnership between Sesame Workshop (creators of *Sesame Street*) and the Merrill Lynch Foundation.

The primary aim of Panwapa is to build children's awareness of the diverse world in which we live by providing them with the building blocks to explore self, their community, and the wider world.

Panwapa aims to achieve the following goals:

- Awareness of the wider world,
- Appreciating similarities and differences,
- Taking responsibility for one's behaviors,
- Community participation and willingness to take ac-

tion, and

- Understanding of and responsiveness to economic disparity.

Featuring an entirely new group of Muppet characters, Panwapa consists of an interactive website, [www.panwapa.com](http://www.panwapa.com), a DVD and print materials that are available in five languages -Arabic, English, Japanese, Mandarin, and Spanish - to children both here in the United States and around the world.

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## **Residential Fellowship Institute *Journies of Nonviolence: Ghandi and King***

Ahimsa Center at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona invites applications from K-12 educators for a fellowship to participate in an interdisciplinary residential institute on *Journeys of Nonviolence: Gandhi and King, the Pioneers of Nonviolent Action for Social Transformation*. The two-week program will be held on campus in Pomona, CA, July 12-25, 2009.

For details about the program focus and format, residential fellowship and benefits, fully paid 8 units of course credits, program requirements, selection criteria and application procedures, please visit: <http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter>

A two-page program flyer in PDF format is available for download at [www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter](http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter)

Deadline for Application is March 16. Early application is recommended.

For questions and additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Tara Sethia, Professor of History and Director of Ahimsa Center: [tsethia@csupomona.edu](mailto:tsethia@csupomona.edu).

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## **Active Citizen Project and Open Caucus Introduce *EATS***

Open Caucus (OC), a free, non-partisan civic engagement activity, is creating a new opportunity for student-led change with *EATS*.

At a time when food prices and barriers to food access are rising, *EATS* will provide moderate- and low-

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income communities with improved access to affordable nutritional food.

With *EATS*, schools across the country are partnering with community organizations and social entrepreneurs to design and test a model that provides access to local, fresh food in communities in need. Teacher's Preparatory School in Brownsville, Brooklyn, the site of the *EATS* pilot, has received funding to support the creation of an elective entirely dedicated to *EATS* next semester, and we also have solidified a partnership with Parsons School of Design at The New School, in which Master's students will work with our OC: *EATS* students on design projects that will help *EATS* succeed in its mission.

We are already planning to partner with schools from 5 cities across the country, but are interested in expanding our student *EATS* base to Maine.

*EATS* and your school:

Our satellite schools are crucial to this project, and participating students will get first-hand community-based experience in a variety of subjects; from organizing, to history, to nutrition, to business, to research, design, marketing and more! *EATS* students will collaborate in community meetings and online with students and community organizations across the country to engage community members to aid in the creation of an urban farm and store in NYC. Students able to help with farming will get the opportunity in May to help transplant seedlings and plant new products in *EATS* gardens across the community.

As always with Open Caucus, ACP will provide students with the resources necessary to take action in their communities- entirely free of charge.

What does *EATS* registration require from you?

- A dedication of at least three classroom activities throughout the semester
- Your help facilitating student community work, including interviews and original research evaluating the community
- Your help in providing, to the best of your ability, the means for students to collaborate online with students nationwide.

This is a very exciting and innovative project that gives your students the opportunity to create real change. The deadline for registration for the project is February 2nd, 2009. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call 212.612.1527.

A promotional video is available for viewing at [www.activecitizenproject.com](http://www.activecitizenproject.com).

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### **Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies (NERC)**

#### ***Examining Our Past, Understanding Our Present, Educating Our Future***

March 16th -19th, 2009, Boston Park Plaza Hotel

NERC 2009 will feature Dr. William Bennett as its major morning speaker on Wednesday, March 18. Warmly received at NCSS, Dr. Bennett will speak on education issues with special reference to his new best-selling, two volume work on US History, *America: the Last Best Hope*. Attendees will be able to purchase the book and have it autographed by Dr. Bennett following his address.

Monday, March 16th and Thursday, March 19th will be workshop days: Monday will feature Geography and Service Learning while Thursday will have Steve Armstrong's *Using American Popular Music to Teach US History* and a special presentation on Iraq and Afghanistan featuring veterans from those theaters and an examination of the issue of recruiting and counter-recruiting in high schools. Tuesday, March 17th and Wednesday, the 18th will have general session speakers, a broad array of 2 hour clinics, and one hour sessions with extra time set aside for attendees to visit the exhibitors.

Multiple registration packages are available.

For more information and to register, please go to [www.masscouncil.org](http://www.masscouncil.org).

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