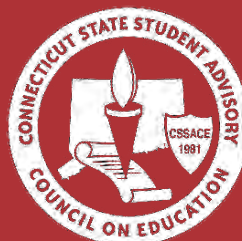


29<sup>th</sup> Annual

# CHALLENGE TO EDUCATIONAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD PROGRAM



JUNE 4, 2024 | 10:00 AM  
CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS | CHESHIRE CT



# Introduction

The State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) is pleased to have offered schools throughout Connecticut the opportunity to apply for recognition in the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award program. This program was the "brain child" of the 1996 edition of SSACE as a way of promoting citizenship through co-curricular programs.

Today, we honor 17 winning entries that embody the spirit of citizenship and an altruistic commitment to serving others. Submitted projects were judged by the high school student members of this year's council. The submissions were evaluated on the basis of the depth, breadth, and quality of impact on others in the school community.

Schools were asked to reflect on the organizations within their school community. Do any epitomize exemplary civic awareness, cooperation, and boundless potential for community impact?

## SSACE Adviser

*Cherese Miller-Odukwe, Director of Student Activities  
Connecticut Association of Schools*

## Masters of Ceremony

*SSACE Students*

## Welcome

*CAS-CIAC Staff*

**EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT  
BECAUSE ANYBODY  
CAN SERVE**

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

# 2024 AWARD WINNING SCHOOLS

## **“Project Linus”- Irving A. Robbins Middle School**

The “Project Linus” crew has been learning how to crochet to support the Project Linus foundation. The Project Linus Foundation creates handmade blankets for kids who have suffered trauma. Working together to help other kids which not only helped them; but helped the crew to build stronger relationships with each other.

## **“Dylan’s Wings of Change”- Irving A. Robbins Middle School**

“Dylan’s Wings of Change” is a foundation that was created to honor Dylan Hockey. Dylan was killed on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The mission of this foundation is to focus on leadership skills and team-centered mentalities that inspire these core values.

## **“Empowering Preschoolers”- Irving A. Robbins Middle School**

“Empowering Preschoolers” Forty-two students from the team's CREW collaborated to create and lead a lesson to empower the twenty preschool students. The preschoolers learned a lot and were very happy that the older students were teaching them.

## **“SADD”- Fairfield Ludlowe High School**

The mission of “SADD” is to educate students and the community on the effects of drunk driving or distracted driving. “SADD” has been in existence for the past 10 years. And continues to save the lives of people in the Fairfield Ludlowe community.

## **“RAAFT”- Raising Abuse Awareness for Teens- Fairfield Ludlowe High School**

The mission of “RAAFT” is to educate students and the community on domestic violence and healthy relationships. Over the past 10 years, “RAAFT” has continued to educate and support students in the Fairfield Ludlowe community.

## **“Unified Sports”- Ridgefield High School**

The “Unified Sports” club has been active for 7 years with the goal of creating an inclusive environment where Ridgefield High School Students with and without disabilities can interact and form relationships while learning new skills and building a team.

## **“Hillside Food Outreach”- Immaculate High School**

“Hillside Food Outreach” is an organization that serves the greater Danbury area. Volunteers pack up a month’s worth of groceries and then deliver it to clients that have been assigned to them.

## 2024 AWARD WINNING SCHOOLS

### **“FutureScript”-Empowering Students Through Technology- Newtown High School Ridgefield High School**

The mission of “FutureScript ” is to increase accessibility of computer science education and resources for underserved communities. The program offers free computer science education to students in grades 1-10. The focus is on improving awareness and access to computer education for under-resourced communities.

### **“Cultural Showcase”- Bunnell High School**

Bunnell’s “Cultural Showcase ” was created by students in 2021 to exhibit and admire the culture that makes up Bunnell. The cultural showcase has played a major role in the school’s climate and has even led the school to become a “No place for hate” school.

### **“Hearts of Kindness”-East Haven High School**

The “Hearts of Kindness” started as a goal of creating a more positive and supportive environment at the school. The messages were created to ensure that mental health was prioritized in the school. Messages were placed in a public area so that anyone having a bad day, week or month could grab a message and improve their day.

### **“Homeless Care Packages”- Oxford Middle School**

Over 3-4 weeks around the holiday season, approximately 70 students collected snacks and essential toiletries, made holiday cards, and decorated and assembled more than 100 gift bags to be donated to Columbus House for Distribution. The project started over 20 years ago and still continues to teach students how small acts of kindness can brighten the holiday season for those less fortunate.

### **The “Forgive and Forget Program”- Killingly Intermediate School**

The “Forgive and Forget Program” is an 8th grade leadership program consisting of 29 students who perform a wide range of activities during the school day for younger students. The mission is to utilize student leaders to provide support, guide and mentor. This is intended to create an overall positive school climate.

### **“The Giving Table”- Joseph A. Foran High School**

Joseph A. Foran High School “Giving Table Club” was established three years ago. The goal of this club is to encourage and develop exceptional learning opportunities and engage in events aimed at unifying our school & the Milford community.

### **“B Club”- Social Engineers for Good Days and Better Tomorrows- The Woodstock Academy**

The “B Club” is a student-led group with a goal of positively affecting our local community. Specifically, the club’s focus is on raising money for student’s medical expenses, and providing normal life experiences for the students they support.



## 2024 AWARD WINNING SCHOOLS

### **“Best Buddies” Program- Nathan Hale Ray Middle School**

“Best Buddies” teamed up with Unified Sports and played Bingo with citizens at the local senior center. Buddies also volunteered as “elves” at the local tree lighting celebration this holiday season; spreading cheer as guests waited for Santa’s arrival.

### **“NJHS Projects”- Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School**

Scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship ...this is “NJHS” at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, where they take part in their community. Through various community service acts of kindness, this group has brought happiness to many of the people in their community.

### **“Thompson Community Car Cruise”- Tourtellotte Memorial High School**

“The Thompson Community Car Cruise’s” mission is to give back to the community and make money for the community fire department by way of a service project. This project is led by a group of 12 Tourtellotte students and has raised over \$2000.00!



# CAS

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