

The Iowa Council for the Social Studies Journal

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Building Citizens: From Local to Global

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FORWARD



This issue of the ICSS Journal focuses on the theme *Building Citizens: From Local to Global*. Implied in this ambitious theme is a call for *social action, service learning* and *civic participation* on the part of educators and the students who populate the schools and classrooms of the nation and the world. The purpose of this issue then is to present perspectives from educators around the globe who routinely build bridges between their classrooms and the communities by action plans designed with citizenship in mind.

ICSS is indeed indebted to Phyl Burger for her enthusiasm and encouragement in recruiting the authors for this year's edition and helping to edit the articles selected for publication. Currently Phyl is a business and education consultant based in St. Paul, Minnesota. However, as a former classroom teacher, elementary principal and educational consultant, Phyl provides a unique perspective on the value of teaching citizenship in the classroom and the community. The five other authors published in this edition were her former students in an online professional development workshop titled "Keeping Schools Safe." Workshop topics included bullies in school, harassment, school violence, teaching values and skills for resolving conflicts, and designing learning activities that create safe school environments.

In the lead article Phyl presents six principles for helping students build good character. She introduces these principles by stating the following: "My career path has led me from the classroom, to educational administration, to corporate America and back to teaching. I have come full circle. But the same principles of good citizenship did not change as I moved from one work place to another. We still need to model for students today how to develop self-awareness, acquire effective communication skills, and learn to resolve conflict if we aim to populate our communities and work places with responsible citizens."

Mara Kopitsky, high school English teacher at Schuylkill Haven High School in Schuylkill, PA., wrote an article entitled, "Taking on the World." In this article she explains how she has built service learning projects into her curriculum as a way of bridging the classroom to the community.

Todd McKee, Secondary School Principal at the International Community School of Addis Ababa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, wrote an article entitled, "Educators + Parents + Partnership = Global Citizenship." In this article Todd explores the value of building strong parent/school partnerships to produce good citizenship skills in students.

Ursula Pong, instructor at the Singapore American School in Singapore, wrote an article entitled, "All the Right Moves." In this insightful piece she explores how character education can be integrated across the curriculum even in a dance class.

Julie San Nicolas, Guidance Counselor at the DODEA Guam South Elementary/Middle School on the Pacific Island of Guam, wrote an article entitled, "A Lesson on Compassion." In this article she presents how a major current events, even a tragedy can help students develop the virtue of compassion.

Kim Tyo-Dickerson, School Library Media Specialist at Dryden Middle School/High School Library Media Center in Dryden, NY, wrote an article entitled, "Where the Boys Are: Using the School Library Media Center To Teach Good Citizenship." In this article Kim shares how citizenship can be taught even in the school library media center.

What do Guam, Singapore, Ethiopia, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and New York all have in common? They are all places where teachers help students develop citizenship skills in everything they do. Given this issue's theme, "Building Citizens: From Local to Global," it was only fitting that the perspectives of teachers from around the globe be placed in the spotlight.

Lynn E. Nielsen, Editor
ICSS Journal