

NEWS YOU CAN USE

**News & Notes for those who Care and Share!**

•References •Resources •Research •Ramblings

April 2017 – Issue 4

Ed DeRoche, Director, Character Education Resource center

**WHO and WHAT?**

Last month I was asked to provide a few “bullet points” and pictures about the Center for a group meeting with SOLES’ administrators. As important as “bullet points” are, my experience suggests that context and background are needed to frame “bullet points.” Here is our 5-point framework about who we are and what we do.

First, the Center is part of the Department of Learning and Teaching with an affiliation with the Division of Professional and Continuing Education.

Second, we are one of the oldest Centers in SOLES, at USD, and the nation. Professor Mary Williams and I started the Center in 1995.

Third, we offered character education elective courses for USD’s undergraduate and graduate students and teachers-in -training, as well as professional development (extension) courses that lead to a Specialist Certificate in Character Development.

Fourth, our experiences and the evidence clearly suggest that we are a national and international Resource Center for educators and related groups. *Our Motto*: If we don’t have it, we can get it, or create it.

Fifth, a few “bullets:”

• [CERC social media includes Twitter, LinkedIN, Facebook, and our web site](https://www.sandiego.edu/soles/character-education-resource-center/).

* CERC has a 14-member Advisory Committee of professors and elementary/middle/secondary school administrators and teachers.
* CERC supports the Teacher-Teaching Connection Series (with the L&T Department.
* CERC keeps constituents informed about character education and related topics and issues through monthly newsletters and blogs and many, many emails.
* CERC offers summer conferences on “Why Character Matters”-the oldest and most popular conference on this topic on the West Coast.
* CERC staff work with local teachers and administrators on program implementation and assessment.
* CERC is listed on the California Department of Education - Youth Development -Resources for teachers, parents, & other stakeholders.
* CERC has “ informal” partnerships with many organizations including The Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

++ The School of Leadership and Education Sciences is ranked 89th among education graduate schools by U.S. News & World Report.

++The Report also listed USD’s online Master of Education 22nd as among the “Best Online Graduate Education Programs.”

**MINDFULNESS**

The education literature is filled with content on the topic of “mindfulness” -- the nonreligious form of meditation that teaches students techniques for reducing stress, negative feelings and thoughts. Bottom-line: Research shows that engaging in mindfulness activities reduces student stress and improves academic achievement.

[What is mindfulness](http://www.presentmomentliving.ca/)?

[Does it work? “It is quick, easy to implement, and has proven benefits.”](https://www.edutopia.org/article/when-mindfulness-feels-necessity-aukeem-ballard)

[*When Teachers Get Mindfulness Training, Students Win*](http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/when_teachers_get_mindfulness_training_students_win)

By [Jill Suttie](http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/when_teachers_get_mindfulness_training_students_win) | February 23, 2017 | --According to a new study, training teachers in mindfulness can affect the whole climate of the classroom.

**INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING**

[*Bringing Inquiry-Based Learning Into Your Classroom: A four-step approach to using a powerful model that increases student agency in learning*](https://www.edutopia.org/article/bringing-inquiry-based-learning-into-your-class-trevor-mackenzie)

**TEEN-AGE GIRLS & DEPRESSION**

[*Depression Strikes Today’s Teen Girls Especially Hard*](http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/02/13/514353285/depression-strikes-todays-teen-girls-especially-hard)

[**DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP SURVEY**](https://goo.gl/forms/nL8B6EivGfYprt132)

The Digital Citizenship Institute has released a survey that addresses current and future trends of digital citizenship in K-12 education. Your input will help develop policy and inform parents and educators for years to come in this vital area of education.

**NOTE:** On Friday, June 23rd from 1:00 -2:30 Jason Ohler will speak on the topic of Digital Citizenship. Jason is a digital humanist and President's Professor of Educational Technology at the University of Alaska, Juneau. His most recent book is *Digital Community, Digital Citizen* (Corwin, 2010).

**3 =** **WORTH READING**

(1) Lifting Up Teachers: **E-N -T-H-U-S-I-A-S-M** spelled out (if the link below doesn’t open automatically, copy and paste it into a browser)

<https://halurban.com/lifting-up-teachers-15/>

(2) [*How Do We Measure Social and Emotional Learning?*](http://www.edutopia.org/blogs/how-do-we-measure-sel-maurice-elias) Maurice J. Elias

**Note:** Professor Elias will be a speaker at the CERC conference on Thursday June 22, 2017.

(3) [SEVEN (7) MINDSETS: The Research](http://7mindsets.com/our-research/)

Everything is Possible—Passion First—We are Connected--100% Accountable – Attitude of Gratitude—Live to Give—The Time Is Now

**\*\*REGISTER NOW \*\***

**21st Annual Conference -- June 22 & 23, 2017**

**Theme: The ESSENCE of CHARACTER  
 ++ Emotional Intelligence**

**++ Social Skills & Relationships**

**++ Civic and Digital Citizenship**

*Students need intentional practice to build their character skills and habits so that they learn effective and productive ways of flourishing in this global and digital society.*

To register, copy and paste the following link into a browser: [charactermatters2017.eventbrite.com](http://charactermatters2017.eventbrite.com/)

**Comment/Critique/Unsubscribe**

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