



*Love is like a cloudless blue sky. That's why I always carry an open umbrella.  
- Jarod Kintz*

**CHARACTER EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER**  
**School of Leadership & Education Services**  
**University of San Diego**

***News You Can Use – January 2020***  
**Happy New Year!**

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**One-Day Character Development Training Program**  
**Middle & High School Teachers**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

The Character Education Resource Center (SOLES) and the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation will offer a one-day workshop for middle and high school teachers to be held in the Kroc Institute of Peace & Justice Center. This full day training will provide teachers with all the tools you need to bring the Medal of Honor Character Development Program into your classroom. This flexible, cross-curricular resource, which uses the Oral Histories of Medal of Honor Recipients, focuses on how students can use these examples of courage, commitment, sacrifice, integrity, citizenship and patriotism to influence change in their own communities.

There is no cost for attendance; your school can be reimbursed for the cost of your substitute teacher. Middle and High School teachers from all subject areas along with counselors, coaches, and administrators are invited to attend. For more information visit:

[https://themedalofhonor.com/cmoh\\_events/](https://themedalofhonor.com/cmoh_events/)

# Fall 2019 "Honor, Courage, & Commitment Essay Contest Winners

In collaboration with the Character Education Resource Center at the University of San Diego, the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation (FLHF) and the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum are pleased and proud to announce winners of the fall 2019 essay contest for all public, private, and home school students in grades 6 through 8 and grades 9 through 12 in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

## **High School:**

1st place: Charles Newlin, 9th grade, San Diego High School, San Diego, submitted by teacher Patrick Leka

2nd place: Dylan Sandelin, 12th grade, Grossmont High School, El Cajon, submitted by teacher Nicole Thren

3rd place: Simon Roberts, 11th grade, Mira Mesa High School, San Diego

## **Middle School:**

1st place: Julia Peavey, 8th grade, Correia Middle School, San Diego, submitted by teacher John Snedden

2nd place: Torrey Egan, 8th grade, Woodland Park Middle School, San Marcos, CA submitted by teacher Laura Whitney

3rd place: Nevin Steinbuch, 8th grade, Saint Kieran Catholic School, El Cajon, submitted by teacher Liane White

**Watch for information about the "Marines in Flight" ART CONTEST in our February issue.**

## **The 10 Education Issues Everybody Should Be Talking About**

*No. 1: Kids are right. School is boring*

*No. 2: Teachers have trust issues. And it's no wonder why*

*No. 3: Special education is broken.*

*No. 4: Schools are embracing bilingualism, but only for some students.*

*No. 5: A world without annual testing may be closer than you think.*

*No. 6: There are lessons to be learned from the educational experiences of black students in military families.*

*No. 7: School segregation is not an intractable American problem.*

*No. 8: Consent doesn't just belong in sex ed. class. It needs to start a lot earlier.*

*No. 9: Education has an innovation problem.*

*No. 10: There are two powerful forces changing college admissions.*

Let us know what you think, and what big ideas matter to your classroom, school, or district. Tweet your comments with [#K12BigIdeas](#).

# 12 Critical Issues Facing Education in 2020 (edited)

By Peter DeWitt, EDUCATION WEEK December 15, 2019.

A former K-5 public school principal turned author, presenter, and independent consultant

I believe we should have a critical look at the issues we face in education, and create some dialogue and action around these issues, and talk about them sooner than later. These issues are not ranked in order of importance. I wanted to provide a list of issues I feel educators will believe are in their control.

**Health & Wellness** - Research shows that many of our students are stressed out, anxiety-filled, and at their breaking point. Teachers and leaders are experiencing those same issues. (T)his needs to be the year where mindfulness becomes even more important than it was in 2019.

**Literacy** - We have too many students not reading with proficiency, and therefore, at risk of missing out on the opportunity to reach their full potential. It's time to put a deep focus on teaching literacy with a balanced approach.

**School Leadership** - When I mention school leadership, I am also referring to department chairs, PLC leads, or grade-level leaders. Unfortunately, not all leaders feel prepared for the position. (WE) need to find ways to expose potential leaders to all of the goodness, as well as the hardships, that come with the position.

**Our Perception of Students** - I have heard educators talk about certain students in very negative ways, with a clear bias that must get in the way of how they teach those students. We (must) focus on our perception of students and address those biases that may bleed into our teaching and leading.

**Cultures of Equity** - We have an achievement gap with some marginalized populations (i.e., African American boys), and have other marginalized populations (i.e., LGBTQ) who do not feel safe in school. Students and the schools they attend need to be provided with equitable resources.

**District Office/Building-Level Relationships** - There are too many school districts with a major disconnection between the district office and building level leaders. School districts will likely never improve if people are constantly told what to do and not given the opportunity to share the creative side that probably got them hired in the first place.

**Politics** - It's an election year. It's important for us to open up this dialogue in our classrooms, and talk about how to respectfully agree or disagree. Additionally, we have to wonder how the campaigns and ultimate presidential decision will impact education.

**Our Perception of Teachers** - Whether it be in political rhetoric or through the media and television programs, our dialogue has not been kind, and it has led to a negative perception of teachers. Teachers are educated, hardworking professionals who are trying to help meet the academic and social-emotional needs of their students, which is not always easy.

**Vaping** - (T)here has been a major spike in the use of vaping among adolescents., and it will take parents, schools, and society to put a dent in it.

**Time on Task vs. Student Engagement** - It's time we focus on student engagement, which allows us to go from surface to deep level learning and on to transfer level learning. It also helps balance the power in the room between adults and students.

**Teachers With guns** - (T)his one was not easy to add to the list, and it is very much a U.S. issue. I recently saw this story on Nightly News with Lester Holt that focused on teachers in Utah being trained to shoot guns in case of an active shooter in their school. This is a story that we will see more of in 2020.

**Climate Change** - (Y)oung people will continue to rise up and make climate change a critical issue in 2020.

**In the End** I have always believed that education is about taking on some of this crucial issues and turning them around to make them better. Anyone who gets into teaching needs to believe that they can improve the educational experience for their students.

# How Technology Enables Parent-Communication

A paper by the UK [Department for Education and Skills](#) explored the impact of parental involvement on a child's education. The report highlighted several ways parental involvement, or a lack thereof, can affect a child. These include:

- In a child's early years, the involvement of parents can have a significant impact on a child's cognitive development, literacy and numeracy skills.
- Parental involvement affects a child's achievement throughout their schooling.
- A lack of parental interest increases the risk of educational failure.
- A father's interest in a child's schooling is strongly linked to the child's educational outcomes.

The good news is that most parents want to be involved in their children's education. Research that suggests 72 percent of parents want to be involved in their child's education and that 58 percent think they are equally responsible with the school for their child's education.

Schools that can encourage parental communication are setting themselves up for success. Not only could doing so impact the child's education, but parents will be happy that they can be more involved, and teachers will feel supported by the parents.

Author: Izack Crook--Posted 11/6/2019

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Our Motto: If we don't have it, we can get it or create it.

Our Vision: We believe that education for human service must be grounded in the public's desire for ethical, civic-minded, character-based leaders and citizens.

Our Mission: It is the Center' responsibility to provide services and resources to schools, families, communities, K-12 educators, students, educators, community agency leaders and others interested in educating the "hearts and minds" of children and youth.

What do you think of this month's NUCU? We'd love to hear your **thoughts, questions** and **feedback**: [character@sandiego.edu](mailto:character@sandiego.edu)

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