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Creating a Character Education Program in Your Community

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Creating a Character Education Program in your Community

Agenda

- A Quick History of West Point's Program
 - NCEA
 - HS Leadership and Ethics Conferences
 - HS Character Education Assistance Programs
- Benefits of this Program
- Available Resources and Assistance
- Recommendations
- Questions

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A Quick History of West Point's Outreach Programs

Where West Point Outreach has gone in 4 short years...

- West Point's National Conference on Ethics in America (NCEA) sponsored by USMA '70!...now in it's 22nd Year!!!
- 25 High School and 3 Junior High, and 1 Elementary School Leadership and Ethics Conferences in the past 4 years!
- 3 High School Ethics Programs started
- Character Education Resource Guide created in the Summer of 2006
- Presented at a National College Conference in UoC
- Based on our Program, USAFA is now attempting to start a similar HS Program

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NCEA: Making a Difference at the College Level

- Premiere National College Ethics Conference
- 3 Day Conference... everything paid for except travel
- Includes over 61 Colleges/Universities; 180 + college juniors, and 40+ faculty from across the Country
- Students stay in the barracks with Cadets +++
- First two days – College Environment Discussions
- Last Day – Ethics in the Professional World
- 25 Mentors, 2 Plenary Speakers, 16 CEO types, and a Nationally known Keynote Speaker
- Website: <http://www.usma.edu/uscc/scpme/ncea/index.html>



Quotable Quotes:

“Best Leadership Experience I have had at West Point!”
-NCEA Cadet in Charge

“I helped our College write a New Honor Code based on the NCEA experience.”

-Student Delegate

“The contacts and concepts that I gained from NCEA will definitely assist me and my University now and in the future.”

-Student Delegate



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High School Ethics Conferences

- Societies and Graduates have conducted these Conferences in GA, NY, NJ, PA, and VA.
- 1 Day event – Presentations, and small group discussions
- Topics include: Honor, Respect and Leadership
- Includes 100+ high quality HS Juniors and roughly 30 faculty
- Keynote Speaker (and/or Cadets) present West Point's approach
- Discussions are candid, open and engaging with students/faculty
- Address current HS student issues/challenges and both students and faculty work towards realistic solutions!
- Can be done without cadet involvement

Note: Intent/focus is to contribute to the development of your Community's youth... and not West Point Recruiting tool!



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HS Character Education Assistance Programs

- Societies and Graduates have conducted these program in NY, NJ and PA.
- Focus is Community School District students and faculty
- Program provides *free* resources to assist HSs in developing their own programs
- More than just an Ethics Conference... a long term contribution!
- A Program that works... that can be tailored for any school!
- Resources currently available on the Net for each of you!
- March/April 2006 Assembly Article addresses this Program

Website:

http://www.usma.edu/Cpme/HS_Outreach/HS_Outreach.htm

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Available Resources and Assistance

- Character Education Program Resources...FREE!!!
- HS Ethics Conference Resources... FREE!!!
- Planned West Point Society Conferences to observe
- West Point Societies and Grads willing to help!
- It is all available... School Invitations... and checklists and outlines...FREE!!!
- (Limited Cadet Support... but still very doable!)
- Societies willing to assist... Savannah, NJ, MHR- NY
- Individuals willing to assist... Len Marrella '57, Bert Tucker '56, Ted Ogren, '56 and Joe Pfenzelter
- LTC Dave Jones, USMA (845) 938-2113



Benefits

- A valuable West Point Society Contribution to the youth and educators in your Community
- “Get people talking about West Point”
- Focus on the most important area at West Point: Character Development and Values
- Connect with the younger Generation!
- A real chance to make a Difference!
- Minimal resources required – cost low
- Character Education Programs can have long term impacts



Recommendations

- Approach is KEY!
- Build relationships first... offer Programs next!
- Use *West Point* to sell the value of the Programs...
Character and Values are central in all we do!
- Use all the resources available to you as you wish
- Take advantage of Societies that have done this!
- Must have a GREAT PR person to take the lead!
- Need to incorporate Young Members on your TEAM... they *must* connect with the students!
- Consider both Conferences and Assistance Programs
- There are ways to keep the costs down!



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Currently Scheduled HS Ethics Conferences

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Nov 13 '07	Savannah, GA
Nov 12, (TBD), 07	Bergen County, NJ
Mar 6, '08	Patterson, NJ*
Feb mid-month (TBD) '08	Hudson County, NJ*
Apr 3, '08	West Point, NY
Apr 25, '08	Berks County, PA

**AS you plan, it is invaluable to observe a Conference in action...
... and you are welcome and encouraged to come and observe!**

**SCPME and Admissions are involved in these...
two of these are minority Outreach Conferences***

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QUESTIONS!

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