



New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development (NJASECD)



January 27, 2017

Dr. Neil Burti
Bret Harte Elementary School
1909 Queen Anne Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Dear Dr. Burti,

Congratulations! Because of the high quality of work represented in your State/National Schools of Character application, the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD) has selected **BRET HARTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** a *2017 New Jersey School of Character*. Your school will maintain this status for a period of three years through 2019.

Your application has been forwarded to Character.org, formally known as Character Education Partnership (CEP) in Washington, D.C. for consideration in the National Schools of Character program. Character.org will list you on their website, www.character.org and contact you with additional information and setting up a site visit. The 2017 National Schools on Character will be announced the week of May 9, 2017.

Your school will be honored at a special recognition ceremony during the **NJASECD Annual Conference on May 19, 2017 at Rider University**. Please plan to attend along with your Board of Education president, superintendent, parents, students, and teachers who may have played a significant role in building and sustaining your character education initiative. There is no charge for the Recognition Ceremony that will take place from 8:30am to 9:30am; however, all of your representatives who plan to attend must be registered. **Those staying for the entire conference day must pay the conference charge of \$85.00. All 2017 NJSOC applicants will be receiving special directions on how to register for the conference. You will NOT register via the online registration.**

Our conference offers a host of dynamic sessions on building character seamlessly, addressing state mandates, making curricular connections, combating bullying and implementing service learning. **We hope you will join us for the entire day.** You also will find out about our four Regional Networking Centers that provide rich opportunities for collegial sharing. As a NJSOC, you will serve as a coach to other schools.

As a 2017 NJSOC, you are strongly encouraged to share your best practices by applying for one or more Promising Practices. The deadline to submit an application is March 15, 2017. Application guidelines and the online application are available at <http://character.org/schools-of-character/promising-practices-overview/promising-practices-application/>.

You will be receiving additional information from Character.org concerning a celebration of all Schools of Character and their annual National Forum that will be held October 20-21, 2017 in Washington, DC.

On behalf of NJASECD and its supporting institutions, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), the Educational Information and Resource Center (EIRC) and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), we thank you for your hard work and for your commitment to implementing a quality character education initiative. If you have any questions, please contact Nina Kemps at 856-424-1884 or nkemps@verizon.net . We look forward to meeting you personally on May 19, 2017.

Sincerely,

William Trusheim

NJASECD President

Nina M. Kemps

NJSOC State Coordinator

Eileen Dachnowicz

NJSOC Blue Ribbon Panel Chair

c: Wendell Steinhauer, NJEA
Mark T. Lindenmuth, EIRC
Sheril Morgan, Character.org
Kelly Allen, NJDOE

Attachments:

2017 NJSOC Outreach Permission Form
NJASECD Conference Save the Date Flyer