



# NCEF NEWSLETTER

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## An Open Letter

By Dave Rettig

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Summer is moving quickly and I am sure you are tying up loose ends, looking to fall planning and capturing personal time.

NCEF staff has been busy this summer designing new programs, working on the federal stimulus funds proposals and fine-tuning our services. We have been contacting school districts to personally introduce staff and give school districts an opportunity to ask questions on the foundation and All-Pro Action Team programming.

An important project we are developing is the presentation of a statewide character education conference (*first of its kind*). The conference will provide information and network opportunities to educators as they integrate character education into their curriculum during the 2009-2010 school year.

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## The National Character Education Foundation Pennsylvania Conference

NOVEMBER 12 - 13, 2009  
FOUR POINTS SHERATON  
Mars, PA 16066

Download registration forms at our website, [www.ncef.net](http://www.ncef.net).

### Why should you attend?

NCEF is committed to providing the largest consortium of educational professionals in a two-day discussion of character education issues. Legislators, business, industry, education, legal and law enforcement will interact in dialogue to address partnerships and program support.

*Con't. - NCEF PA CONF., P. 3*

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*"You now have a place to meet, learn, share and expand your resource list for quality character education resources."*

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## NCEF Attends Spring 2009 Pennsylvania Symposiums

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*“NCEF as a collaborator and implementer.”*

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NCEF served more than 60,000 students, staff and parents in School Year 2008-2009.

Call today to discuss your districts School Year 2009-2010 programming.

NCEF Staff was busy in the spring. Our goal is to meet and greet professionals who are changing and improving education in the Commonwealth. As a presenter, the NCEF staff was able to provide information on the All-Pro Action Team and its presenter’s schedules. The organization was able to support the programs by providing one attendee’s school district with a free assembly. Winning schools appear after the conference information.

### **School Counselor’s Conference** - Milton Hershey School

April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

This conference brought together school counselors from around the state, presented by PA School Counselors Association. This is an annual event, visit their website (<http://www.pasca-web.org/>) for more information.

**NCEF Donated Assembly:** Friendship Elementary School, Glen Rock, PA

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### **Pennsylvania PTA Conference** - Allentown

April 25<sup>th</sup>

This conference brought together PTA volunteers from around the state, presented by PA Parent Teacher Association. This is an annual event, visit their website(<http://www.ptacentral.org/index.htm>).

**NCEF Donated Assembly:** Northside Elementary School, Lower Paxton, PA

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### **Pennsylvania Department of Education Student Services** - Lancaster Host Inn

May 19<sup>th</sup>

This conference brought together professionals working in student services from around the state, presented by PDE. Visit <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/> for more information.

**NCEF Donated Assembly:** Valley View Middle School: Archbald, PA

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Conference presenters include school administrators/staff, District Attorneys, state legislators and community members addressing inclusion of character education components. Members of the NCEF All-Pro Team will conduct workshops as well. Watch for information and registration materials throughout the summer in your mail and email box. Bookmark our website [www.ncef.net](http://www.ncef.net) to ensure up-to-date information and/or call (866) 770-6233 anytime.

NCEF continues to follow the federal stimulus fund process and works with school districts on funding proposals.

As always, do not hesitate to contact NCEF if you have questions and/or ideas related to youth programming and services.

## On the Road with Bob Hartman

This month the focus is on Bob Hartman.

Bob is one of the All-Pro Action Team's newest speakers. Bob is a nationally recognized storyteller and author of more than 50 children's books, including *The Lion Storyteller Bedtime Book*, *Dinner in the Lion's Den* and *Polly and the Frog*. Bob's conversations combine traditional folk tales and personal stories.

Bob's interactive style entertains audiences throughout the United States, the Arab Emirates and Great Britain.

NCEF sits down to learn more:

**On his interest in story telling**, Bob tells staff he was an avid reader as a child. He worked with his brothers at an early age to bring a puppet ministry to life. Using this forum, he learned to write scripts, build his storytelling skills and write for the listener.

**On his training to develop the craft**, Bob tells the staff that storytelling coursework was not available and he had to develop his technique as he worked in ministry.

**On his impact on students and developing their character building skills**, Bob discusses his belief that students are shaped by personal stories and those impacts that change us. A student also is changed by stories they hear and see. His goal is to expose the students to stories that encourage positive behavior, bravery, loyalty, kindness and self-sacrifice.

**On supporting teachers goals**, Bob would like teachers to use storytelling more in class. He believes it creates a community where the storyteller and audience work as a team to bring a story to life. Bob has a positive relation when he works with teachers. He also finds teachers can observe positive interactive learning as students immerse themselves into the process. Many times the student with the best idea may also be located in a previous low performing group within the classroom. Everyone has a chance to shine when storytelling.



*Bob Hartman, storyteller*

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*It's a great path to developing a love for story among kids who struggle with those issues."*

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**Register for the National Character Education Foundation  
Pennsylvania Conference  
CALL 1-866-770-6233 for more information.**

*The National Character Education Foundation (NCEF) believes that young people are our most important natural resource. They hold the keys to the future. The NCEF highly values society's youth and believes that each person deserves to be educated, respected and treated as people who have purpose and value. NCEF's programs decrease disruptive behavior and increase academic proficiency levels. This Pennsylvania Conference will bring multiple programs under one roof for a two-day intensive training for educators, administrators, counselors and psychologists.*

2009 Tribute to Good Character Awards

June 2, 2009 - Rotunda of the PA State Capitol

State Representatives James Robuck, Jr., Dick Stevenson, Jake Wheatley, Paul Clymer and Sam Smith attended this year's event to honor Pennsylvania school students who demonstrated outstanding character education during the school year. Tom McGough emceed the event and stated at the beginning, "Character, a wise person once said, is what we do when no one is looking."

Recipients include: Shanna Hawkins and Jordan Hill, Steelton-Highspire High School, Benjamin Lowry, Clarion County (homeschooler), Brendan Marasco, Washington High School, Nathan McHugh, Panther Valley High School, Justin Stuebgen, Ford City High School. The nominating form was located on the NCEF website. Any school district in PA can nominate their outstanding students for consideration.

Recipients demonstrated exemplary character displayed in their school leadership, athletics, academic excellence, volunteerism and ability to be viewed as a role model.

Steelton-Highspire School District was represented by Dr. Debra Wortham, Supt. and middle school students, Jordan Milberry and Maila Tate-DeFreitas. The school district has demonstrated quality outcomes in student academic and interpersonal performances as well as engaging students in the community.

At the end of the presentations, all those in attendance were all looking at the quality and depth of character from the recipients. **Congratulations to all the students, their families and school personnel who support them.**

**National Character Education Foundation**

314 South Main Street, Zelienople, PA 16063.

1-866-770-6233.

**-Website Services**

Download your application for the upcoming conference.

Download the current newsletter.

Download our current speaker brochures.

Send a comment to the editors on the newsletter.

Send us an inquiry and we will provide information on upcoming programs.

Send all comments to: [scott@ncef.net](mailto:scott@ncef.net)

NCEF defines good character as a consistent pattern of moral and ethical behavior expressing itself across a wide range of situations that allows an individual to be able to reach his/her highest potential.

**NCEF MISSION STATEMENT**

"To recognize, educate and promote the benefits of good character to students, parents and communities."