***PCSS Conference Sessions***

***Saturday, October 21, 2023***

**Session Master**

**10 a.m.**

**Posvar Room 1502 (first floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***My Impact Challenge—You Can make A Difference!***

***Rachel Davison Humphries, Bill of Rights Institute***

***Middle and Secondary Levels***

*What civic virtues must Americans understand and practice, for our own individual flourishing, and for our democratic republic to thrive? What do citizens in a free society need to know and do? My Impact Challenge, a citizenship project, teaches middle and high school students that limited government is essential to human flourishing, and that it depends for its success on entrepreneurship, charity, and active citizenship. The curriculum invites students to exercise these civic virtues on behalf of contemporary local problems, in hands-on projects that students create. Participating students can enter their projects in a nationwide contest or use as a local school project. This unique structure makes My Impact Challenge the only civic education program in which students both learn and practice the foundations of American citizenship, while bypassing the polarizing national issues that preoccupy social justice programs.*

**Posvar Room 1500 (first floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Youth Court, Co-Production, Systems Change***

***Kathy Smith, Chestnut Hill College***

***All Levels***

*This is the first part of a three-part session on youth court with Continuing Legal Education credits for lawyers. Each session stands alone and brings a variety of resource people into the mix for teaching about various aspects of youth court. Most of the instruction is from the Cahn*[*Collaborative*](https://pcssonline.org/the-cahn-collaborative/)*, an ad hoc group that honors the greatest poverty law lawyer of the past 60 years,*[*Edgar Cahn*](https://pcssonline.org/edgar-cahn/)*.  Youth court is the primary focus of Cahn Collaborative efforts, and that focus incorporates Professor Cahn’s work with timebanking, co-production, systems change, and more.  Among the myriad accomplishments of Dr. Cahn, he initiated a highly successful juvenile justice-based youth court in Washington, D.C. that diverted 750 juveniles facing felony charges from the system each year during its operation.*

**Posvar Room 1501 (first floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Project 18***

***Ken Stough and students from Hempfield Area School District***

***Secondary***

*Hempfield Area High School social studies class Project 18, now in its 50th year, was started in the fall of 1974 in response to the 26th Amendment which gave 18 year olds the right to vote. Project 18 sought to prepare these new voters with a practical understanding of civics acquired in the only way it is truly effective, in a hands-on way and from the local level of government up. Key components of the class have always included guest speakers, service hours and a field trip to Harrisburg. It is a rare class that is run like a club, electing officers, and giving students a chance to take leadership in projects and endeavors important to them and their community. Come hear from the teachers and students alike what Project 18 is all about.*

**Posvar Room 5108 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***A 5th Grade Interdisciplinary Civics Classroom***

***Presenter: Mark Kissling, Penns State University and Jennifer Cody, State College Area School District***

***Elementary Level***

*During this session, Dr. Mark Kissling (PSU) and Jen Cody (SCASD) will discuss a yearlong, interdisciplinary inquiry in Jen’s 5th grade classroom, which was centered on the essential question "How can local policies and local civic issues shape living in our community?" Attendees representing all grade levels will learn about effective practices for engaging students in learning about local issues.*

**Posvar Room 5200 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***"The Role of Free Speech in Empowering Students and Improving Discourse."***

***Presenter: Josh Haverlock, F.I.R.E.***

***Secondary Level***

*The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's mission is to defend and sustain the individual rights of all Americans to free speech and free thought — the most essential qualities of liberty. FIRE educates Americans about the importance of these inalienable rights, promotes a culture of respect for these rights, and provides the means to preserve them.  Come learn about FIRE and how its work empowers students and improves discourse.*

**Posvar Room 5201 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Revolutionizing Student Learning: Inside the Development of a Transformative & Integrated Student-Centered Curriculum Presenters: Shayna Ash, Dorie Marie-Pitone, Drew Gingrich, Kajsa Thompson, Lower Merion School District, Ardmore, PA Middle Level***

*Explore and discuss how LMSD reimagined their curricula to create a truly integrated approach to student learning. Recognizing that time in a classroom is limited, teams of teachers have developed a curricula that utilizes text that is both rich in celebrating the human experience while being a canvas for literary analysis and deep, meaningful discussions. One of the pillars to this curriculum is the Diversity Equity Inclusion & Belonging lens which is interwoven throughout each experience.*

**Posvar Room 5401 (fifth floor)**

**60 Minute Session**

***Resource Overview from the National Constitution Center***

***Sarah Harris, NCC***

***All Levels***

*This presentation will highlight all the non-partisan resources from the National Constitution Center. This includes classroom-tested materials that can be used with a wide range of learners, virtual programs that engage students with constitutional questions, and resources created to supplement and support lessons on a myriad of government, history, and civics topics.*

**Posvar Room 5404 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Developing Religious Liberty***

***Erika Lowery***

***Institute for Curriculum Services***

Exposure to the world's religious traditions is critical for students as they move toward becoming global citizens. Focusing on the NCSS's C3 Supplement on Teaching about Religion, this interactive session explores the legal foundations in the United States for teaching about religion, uses case studies to consider the very real challenges involved in teaching this topic, and provides guidelines for incorporating the study of religion into instruction.

**11:45 a.m.**

**Posvar Room 1502 (first floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Heroes and Villains: The Quest for Civic Virtue***

***Joe Schmidt, Bill of Rights Institute***

***Middle and Secondary Levels***

*Through a shared discussion of Americans, past and present, participants will discuss the virtues and vices of some of our most famous and infamous Americans. Teachers will have an opportunity to reflect on founding principles, civic virtues and vices to determine whether Americans who have impacted our history were "heroes" or "villains" which may not be as easy as it seems! Receive ready-made lessons and activities on virtues, vices, and character to bring back to classrooms.*

**Posvar Room 1500 (first floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Youth Court Simulation***

***Kathy Smith, Chestnut Hill College***

***All Levels***

*This is the second part of a three-part session on youth court with Continuing Legal Education credits for lawyers. Each session stands alone and brings a variety of resource people into the mix for teaching about various aspects of youth court. Most of the instruction is from the Cahn*[*Collaborative*](https://pcssonline.org/the-cahn-collaborative/)*, an ad hoc group that honors the greatest poverty law lawyer of the past 60 years,*[*Edgar Cahn*](https://pcssonline.org/edgar-cahn/)*.  Youth court is the primary focus of Cahn Collaborative efforts, and that focus incorporates Professor Cahn’s work with timebanking, co-production, systems change, and more.  Among the myriad accomplishments of Dr. Cahn, he initiated a highly successful juvenile justice-based youth court in Washington, D.C. that diverted 750 juveniles facing felony charges from the system each year during its operation.*

**Posvar Room 1501 (first floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Changing the Culture of Youth Voter Engagement Presenter: Thomas Quinn, Central High School, Philadelphia, PA, and students from Pittsburgh Public Schools Secondary Level***

*179,000 Pennsylvania teenagers turn 18 each year. Why don’t more of them vote? (Hint: It’s not teen apathy!) What are teachers and students doing to register voters in schools? How are politicians engaging with youth voters, and how might policymakers behave differently if all these young people were informed and turned out on Election Day? Share your nonpartisan civic engagement strategies and learn how to help build a statewide movement of students and educators.*

**Posvar Room 5108 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***What Can We Learn from Former Violent White Supremacist?***

***Presenters:  Ellen Resnek, Shannon Foley, Classrooms without Borders***

***All Levels***

*Classrooms Without Borders brings Shannon Foley Martinez, a former violent white supremacist to the PCSS conference in a showcase of her two decades of experience in developing community resource platforms aimed at inoculating individuals against violence-based lifestyles and ideologies. Shannon Foley Martinez brings a unique perspective to developing community resource platforms aimed at countering violence-based lifestyles and ideologies. Her extensive experience in working with at-risk communities and her focus on dynamic resiliency skills make her an invaluable asset to our conference. Her belief in the transformative power within each individual aligns perfectly with the mission of PCSS.*

**Posvar Room 5200 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Object Based Learning in the Classroom Roy Fischer, Heinz History Center Middle and Secondary Levels***

*Join the Heinz History Center for an educational workshop using Object Based Learning (OBL) in the classroom. In this session, teachers will learn to implement OBL in the classroom with best teaching practices, to utilize OBL within an inquiry-based discussion, and to connect OBL practices to both state standards and the C3 Framework. Teachers will also practice OBL with a guided activity using artifacts from the History Center’s handling collection.*

**Posvar Room 5201 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***America and the Holocaust  Presenters: Amy Palo, Cornell High School and Barbara Burstin, University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University Middle and Secondary Levels***

*“America and the Holocaust” is a new approach to teaching the lessons learned from history, while reaching a younger, broader audience. Written by historian Barbara Burstin, who teaches at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, the "graphic booklet" focuses on the need to combat hate and bigotry while examining what the United States did - and didn't do – before and during the Holocaust.  Amy Palo, the 2022 PCSS Secondary Teacher of the Year, will showcase how teachers might use the book. Copies will be available at the conference for free.*

**Posvar Room 5400 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Teaching About World War II***

***Presenter: Amanda Reid-Cossentino, Garnet Valley School District***

***Middle and Secondary Levels***

*This presentation centers on curricular resources and lesson ideas from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. The presenter will discuss free tools available online as well as professional development programs. The presenter will demonstrate a few activities and their applicability to different subjects and grade levels. Attendees will renew and reinvigorate their instruction on WWII, forging a bright pedagogical future!*

**Posvar Room 5401 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Hands-on Geography for a World of 8 Billion***

***Presenter: Kathryn Silvis, La Roche University***

***Middle Level***

*Our global population just hit 8 billion – a doubling in less than 50 years. Discover activities that explore changing trends in world population, urbanization, migration, natural resource use, land use, climate, health, education, and paths to sustainability in this interdisciplinary workshop. Engage in simulations, collaborative problem-solving and data analysis, all matched to state standards.*

**Posvar Room 5404 (fifth floor)**

***30 Minute Session***

***Don't look left, don't look right, look ahead Jennifer Klein, Fox Area School District Middle and Secondary Levels***

*The need for civic dialog and civic education is evident not just in daily life, but in the statistics released by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). This session will provide teachers with 3–6 activities to promote critical thinking about the role of government, in a non-partisan fashion.  These activities are engaging and can easily be modified for various grade levels.*

**1:30 p.m.**

**Posvar Room 1502 (first floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Fulfilling the Promises of the Declaration of Independence***

***Joe Schmidt, Bill of Rights Institute***

***Middle and Secondary Levels***

*Through conversation participants will explore how the Founders wrestled with their principles of liberty, justice, and equality. Using primary resources covering the African American experience, teachers will analyze and discuss how these principles contributed to the quest to end slavery. Together teachers will investigate teaching strategies to engage students in a conversation in the efforts to realize the Founding principles promised in the Declaration of Independence.*

**Posvar Room 1500 (first floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Youth Court: Exploring Trauma and What Does the Future Hold?***

***Kathy Smith, Chestnut Hill College, Cahn Collaborative***

***All Levels***

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**Posvar Room 1501 (first floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Building Core Civic Skills for Future Engaged Citizens***

***Justin Villere, Committee of Seventy, PA Civics***

***Elementary Level***

*This session will begin with a small group discussion about the current limits of teaching civics in primary education (resources, time, limited or no standards). The session will continue with a run-through of C70’s Democracy for Kids Program and resources. The session will conclude with an interactive Q&A for educators to clarify their understanding of the purpose of the C70 materials and how to use them.*

**Posvar Room 5108 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***WE the People and Candy Bar Civics***

***Erica Pagotto,* Lehighton Area School District, We the People Mentor Teacher**

***All Levels***

*We the People Activity Based Lesson. Learn how to host a Congressional Hearing in your classroom using candy bars and student based activities. Teachers will play the role of students as they conduct their own congressional hearing based on researching the Constitution, court cases, and current events. Chocolate included!*

**Posvar Room 5200 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***Teaching with Primary Sources PD Opportunities Presenter: Matthew Mandarino, Waynesburg University***

***All Levels***

*Bring social studies to life with primary sources from the Library of Congress. TPS BASICS presents techniques for searching the vast holdings of the Library of Congress and inquiry strategies that promote critical thinking. The TPS Leadership Institute introduces participants to the TPS Teachers Network and prepares participants to become Certified TPS Coaches. Both on-line courses are FREE, and Act 48 credit is available****.***

**Posvar Room 5201 (fifth floor)**

**90 Minute Session**

***From Silos to Symphonies Presenters: Doug Kirchner, Matt Martocci and Steve Torquato, Upper St. Clair High School Secondary***

*Discover how to move toward a more cohesive, scaffolded scope and sequence for secondary social studies courses and student experiences. Explore one district’s journey from disconnected subject “silos” to a multi-disciplinary “symphony” based on cultural awareness, civic engagement, and a culminating capstone project. Our presentation will highlight how social studies educators can work collectively to jettison beyond a disjointed array of courses to a cohesive/comprehensive curriculum, one geared toward cultural awareness, civil discourse, and active citizenship. Our profession can model harmony over division.*