



Integrating Conflict Resolution Skills/Social and Emotional Learning into the Curriculum

Presenter: Jennifer Combs Batton, M.A.

Jennifer Batton, M.A. is the director of Global Issues Resource Center at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio, USA where she coordinates the college's certificate program in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies, coordinated an on-line national How to Manual for Community Colleges Developing Peace and Conflict Studies Programs with the United States Institute of Peace, and coordinated the development of a study abroad program in Peace and Conflict Studies in Costa Rica through Community Colleges for International Development (CCID). Batton is the former director of education programs for the state government office, the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management in Columbus, Ohio, USA (1998 – 2006). As the Education Director, she was responsible for strategic planning to meet the needs of all of Ohio's schools (approximately 3,500) and universities (approximately 52 teacher training colleges) including coordinating and designing state-wide conflict resolution education (CRE) programming by providing grants, training, technical assistance, evaluation, and resource development in partnership with other state government, and state-wide youth serving agencies. Before coming to the state she was the Director of the Status Offender Mediation Program for the Butler County Juvenile Courts.

Batton has worked on a number of national initiatives funded by the United States Department of Education and international initiatives including providing leadership for The Organization of American States (OAS) Advisory Board for the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices (www.oas.org), and serving as the Co-chair of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Conflict and Peace Education Reference Group (www.gppac.net). Batton provided training, presentations, and consultation for teachers, policy makers, and youth serving professionals on the topic of CRE in countries including Australia, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Guatemala, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Serbia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine. Batton has a B.A. in Political Science from Miami University, and an M.A. in Conflict Resolution from Antioch University. She has completed additional coursework towards a Ph.D. in Conflict Management through Nova Southeastern University.

The Idea

This webinar on "Integrating Conflict Resolution Skills/Social and Emotional Learning into the Curriculum" will provide educators with an overview of the specific skill sets all students need to learn to be successful and active citizens locally and globally. The session will include an overview of the order in which the skills should be taught, ideas for where the concepts can be integrated into current subjects, and best practices in how the skills should be taught for optimal results. These skills are grouped into four categories including:



- Understanding Conflict
- Understanding How Emotions Influence Conflict
- Effective Communication Skills
- Problem Solving

Best practices in implementation methods as well as an overview of what can be achieved when students are trained in these important life skills and when educators are able to model the same skills effectively will be reviewed. Free curriculum resources for primary and secondary classrooms will be shared as well as links to free on-line learning modules that educators can utilize in their teacher training for new or current educators.

Why It Matters

Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) has proven effective in reducing negative behavior, improving classroom climate, enhancing students' social and emotional competencies, and providing students with critical skills for cooperatively managing conflicts with peers and adults. There is strong evidence providing the link between CRE and academic achievement. For more information on the results of integrating these skill sets into the curriculum for students, please visit:

<http://www.creducation.org/cre/researchers>

What We Know

Throughout the hemisphere, the skills and concepts of conflict resolution education are being integrated into the curriculum through national efforts in the areas of democracy education, citizenship education and/or peace education. Specific training in Conflict Resolution Education in the Caribbean has been undertaken since 2009 under the leadership of the Ministry of Education of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Local Government, with financial assistance from the Organization of American States. These efforts continue through the development of five learning modules on these topics including: Conflict Resolution, Bullying Prevention, Peer Mediation, Effective Classroom Management, and Whole School Conflict Management Programs through the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Teacher Education Network.

- **Trinidad and Tobago (2009)** The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Local Government partnered to provide training in CRE to assist in building the country's capacity for developing and strengthening a culture of democracy among youth in Trinidad. Project funded through the Organization of American States Horizontal Cooperation Fund.
- **Three Countries in the Caribbean (2010 - 2011)** Training in CRE was provided for educators, NGOs, and government officials from three countries in the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent) for the project, "An Inter-Sectoral Approach to Fostering a Democratic Culture in Schools and Local Communities in Countries of the Caribbean". This builds on earlier work for the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Education in Trinidad and Tobago. Funding provided by the Organization of American States.



Organization of
American States



Agenda

11.45am- 12.00pm	Technical testing (settings, and hardware tests).
12.00pm-12.40pm	Presentation: Integrating Conflict Resolution Skills/Social and Emotional Learning into the Curriculum
12.40pm-1.00 pm	Q & A /discussion.

Time Expressed in Local Time of Washington, DC UTC/GMT - 4h (Eastern Daylight Time)
