



*Dear Academy Members,*

*We would like to welcome all of our members into the New Year and wish you all a Happy Black History Month! We hope that you will take time this month to reflect on the Black experience in the U.S. and allow space within your communities to move forward and progress into the future. Please find this week's resources below to help in this necessary process of positive progression.*

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## ***Connecting Black History to Joy***

Black History Month isn't only about pain—it can be a full-fledged celebration of accomplishments that have shaped America. In her article, Hedreich Nichols argues that while using Black history lessons to fill in the gaps in civics and general curriculum is necessary, so is providing access to stories that do not see the Black experience as one rooted only in oppression and enslavement.

[Read the article here »](#)

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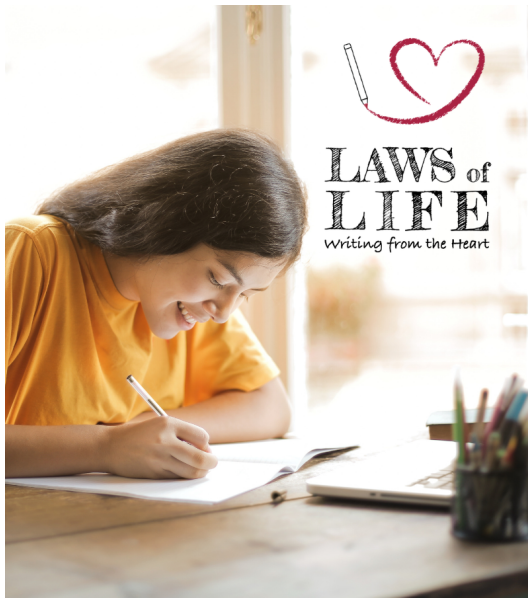


## ***Uplifting Hearts, Connecting Minds***

SEL Day is Thursday, March 10th! The theme this year is Uplifting Hearts, Connecting Minds. Research has shown, and the New Jersey State Board of Education has affirmed, that students need social-emotional and character competencies as much as they need skills like reading in order to master the many tests of life they will most certainly face. All educators have a collective responsibility to systematically encourage the growth of these skills in students. SEL Day is meant to be a catalyst for those efforts.

[Read the article here »](#)

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## **Laws of Life Essay Contest**

The Laws of Life essay contest encourages middle school and high school students to reflect and write about a core value that means the most to them – and why. The program is available to all students in grades 4 through 12 across the world and may be able to be submitted in a language other than English. All essay writers will be recognized by Character.org and the most compelling essays will be featured on their website and social media channels.

Submissions are due by Thursday, Mar 23, 2023.

[Learn more here »](#)



## **Upcoming Webinars**

Here are our upcoming REBROADCASTS of our widely popular [SEL Academy Free Webinar Series: Best Practical Practices in Your SEL/Character Work](#). Every rebroadcast will have time for Q and A. The link to register for all rebroadcasts is [here](#).

### **(1) SEL and Equity 101: A Practical Approach**

**Date:** 2/23/23, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. EST

**Presenter:** April Terrell

This webinar will aid participants in viewing SEL from an equity perspective. Centering on the self-awareness competency, one will begin to think about comfort and capability for discussing topics of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging with students; we will define common language and terms; and determine ways to serve as an anti-racist educator.

**(2) SEL Academy Overview: How and Why to Obtain a Certificate in SEL Instruction and/or SEL School Leadership**

**Date:** 2/20/23, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. EST

**Presenters:** Patricia Heindel and Maurice Elias

As an SEL practitioner—whether working directly with students or leading adults in bringing SEL into your school as an SEL Coordinator, lead teacher, or school administrator—having a certificate from the Academy connects you with a network of professionals sharing your job all over the US and the world. Stop reinventing the wheel and start benefiting from colleagues' work and sharing your own innovations! This webinar will introduce you to the Academy and its primary approaches to fostering social-emotional and character development in schools.

**(3) How to Integrate SEL into Social Studies/Civics/History and other Academic Areas via Students Taking Action Together, and into Tier 2 Interventions via the SEL Lab**

**Date:** 2/1/23, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. EST

**Presenters:** Lauren Fullmer and Tracey Maiden

Join us to learn about two short courses that will help you to intentionally integrate SEL skills into your content area instruction, as well as take a preventive approach to academic and behavioral challenges you may face through Tier 2 Interventions. In just 45 quick minutes, we will share with you about the content and delivery of two short courses: Students Taking Action Together and The Social-Emotional Learning Lab.

**(4) How to Instruct Students in ANY SEL/Character Program Effectively**

**Date:** 3/29/23, 7:30 - 8:30pm EST

**Presenter:** Erin Bruno

During this webinar we will explore best practices for developing SECD skills in your students. We will also look at SEL signature practices that can support the SECD skills and help to create a safe, positive learning environment.

**(5) Leading SEL Implementation in Schools**

**Dates:** 2/9/23, 7:30 - 8:30pm EST & 3/23/23, 4:00 - 5:00pm EST

**Presenters:** William Trusheim, Vickie Blakeney, Donna Black

Come and join us for this webinar which covers fundamental theory and practice regarding Social-Emotional Learning, Character Development, and School Culture and Climate at the level of the program, school, or district. A basic understanding of these fundamentals leads to a discussion of important leadership principles and practices that help to engage staff,

students, parents, and community in building these life skills into the fabric of the school program. Finally, it is important for leaders in a school or district to understand how to develop a core of followers and distribute both leadership and ownership of the program to others invested in the school's success.

**(6) Principles of Staff Development for Expertise in SEL/Character Instruction**

**Dates: 2/16/23, 7:30 - 8:30pm EST & 3/16/23, 4:00 - 5:00pm EST**

**Presenters: Paty Meacham, Scott Taylor**

We invite you to join our webinar and share a brief journey of discovery that describes the SECD Instruction and Leadership practicum courses as opportunities for candidates to build expertise in putting their knowledge of theories and pedagogy into day-to-day practices. Let's begin!



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**secdlab@gmail.com**

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