

## Debbie Crahen- TEPS Abstract

The National Forum on Character Education took place on November 1-3, 2007 in Washington, DC and I was fortunate to attend with PIP funding. The keynote speakers: Larry Pennie (as Benjamin Franklin), Dr. Robert Franklin (Morehouse College), Governor Frank Keating, Dr. Will Keim (The Character Institute) and Dr. Avis Glaze( CEO of Literacy and Numeracy in Ontario) all stressed the important role the classroom teacher has to influence the development of our students' character. My tour of Woodley Hills Schools in Alexandria, Virginia enlightened my understanding of infusing character into every aspect of the daily school routine. Radix Elementary School, a 2007 NSOC winner (National School of Character) presented their *Recipe for Success* in developing their school's character program working with consultant's from Rutgers. Staff from Sherman Lake YMCA spoke about the *Community Commitment* they train school faculties who bring their classes to camp. Hal Urban, author of *Life's Greatest Lessons* shared his classroom experience and how he transformed his high school students into caring and responsible citizens. Tips on Navigating the NSOC application walked us through the process sighting the eleven principles to include in a school or district program. This institute offers not only an award but feedback to all schools who apply. Readers from all over the country look at the applications giving a school a broader lens in the evaluation process. The good news is that New York State is beginning Schools of Character awards this year. State winners go automatically to the national competition. Schools can also apply for a *Promising Practices* award highlighting a certain unique aspect of their program.

[http://www.character.org/site/c.gwKUJhNYJrF/b.993295/k.180D/National\\_Schools\\_of\\_Character\\_Awards\\_Program.htm](http://www.character.org/site/c.gwKUJhNYJrF/b.993295/k.180D/National_Schools_of_Character_Awards_Program.htm)