



Dear Academy Members,

Happy October! As we enter into the fall season in New Jersey, we would love to hear about the innovative ways our Academy members are implementing SECD with their students this school year. If you have an SECD strategy, activity or success story to share with our Academy community in the newsletter, please email us at [secdlab@gmail.com](mailto:secdlab@gmail.com).

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## **Dr. Roger Weissberg, In Memoriam**

We are saddened by the passing of [Dr. Roger Weissberg](#). Dr. Weissberg was an early and staunch advocate within the SEL movement, a co-founder of CASEL and a Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of

**Illinois at Chicago. His innovation and support for SEL has undoubtedly improved the lives of children, educators and families across the globe. In honor of Dr. Weissberg, Academy for SEL instructor, Vickie Blakeney, asked the educators in her course to share what SEL means to them and why they are passionate about SEL. We are privileged to share their words below:**

*I am grateful every day for the work of SEL and for the way Roger made everyone doing the work of SEL feel. He made us feel important, like he SAW us doing the work – like he was a proud father watching his family go into the world, armed with the tools he gave us, knowing that with those tools – we'd be able to make a difference. - Vickie Blakeney*

*Social-Emotional Learning is a passion of mine because I believe it is central to the broadest goal of education, which is prepare young people to grow into their best selves. Our social and emotional development is a lifelong process and in schools, we have the ability to shape some of the first experiences our students have with this work. - Lindsay Kobolt*

*I am involved in SEL because in the first few years of my teaching experience I felt that as educators (and even more so as district decision makers) we were missing what students needed the most from school. Once I found/researched into SEL I realized that this was the piece that had been missing and it was what I was most passionate about as an educator: meeting the whole needs of a child. Often as educators we spend much of our time worrying that we are not doing enough, but since I have become invested in SEL I feel much more confident in meeting students' needs. - Kathryn Stokes*

*I believe that we never know what someone else is going through so we should simply choose to be kind. All human beings need each other, so we need to learn to manage our own emotions first! - Maureen Brown*

*Relationships with students!- Heidi Hickman*

*EMAPTHY! - Kristina Gagliardi*

*I have been involved in SEL for a long time, being a sole fighter and messenger because of your work that ignited me many years ago. People are alive till they are remembered. You will be remembered forever for the stars you lit. -Dr. Lilyana Auster*

*All Students Matter! - W. Brown*

*Foundation of care for one another - Sheri LeDrew Ilg*

*To educate is to shape our future. SEL allows us to fully support and care for all students so they can become the most amazing people possible. - Rachel Goldberg*

*There is no data needed to see the great impact SEL has on students... you see it everyday on their smiling faces. - Jessica Honculada*

*Students who can manage their emotions, become adults who care about themselves and others. - Kristina Gagliardi*

*Thank you for your dream and your work so that we may continue to grow our humanity. - Dr. Simone Bridgemohan*

*You leadership and guidance for SEL was amazing! -Dr. Delawna Davis*

*Thank you for your leadership. Your work has impacted my life professionally and personally. I am healthier in all my roles because of SEL. - Aimee Biggs*

*Thank you for thinking of the whole child. School is much more than academics. We are making the world a better place because of SEL! - Beth Speizer*

*Investing in our children provides for the future of humanity. - Nicole Rossetti*

*Thank you for giving us a way to support our students and their development of the skills to be successful. - Johanna Josaphat*



## **Responsive Classrooms' Graphic Organizers**

Responsive Classroom provides a [database](#) of ready to use graphic organizers, many of which highlight SECD skills, for K - 8 classrooms. Our favorites include a graphic organizer to reflect on characters in a story and a graphic organizer to create SMART goals. Just click and print!

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## **Designing a Better School Staff Meeting**

In this [Edutopia article](#), authors Katie Novak and Mike Woodlock emphasize how staff meetings can be improved by fostering

collaboration, embracing SEL, demonstrating best practices and asking for staff feedback.

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## Upcoming Events

CASEL brings together educators, youth and community leaders for the 2021 SEL Exchange Virtual Summit. This national forum is for "those who are committed to creating caring, productive, and equitable schools and communities that develop the whole child and ensure that all students can thrive."

**Topic:** SEL Exchange Virtual Summit, Beyond Talk: Building Tomorrow Together

**Date and Time:** Thursday October 14th// 12 - 4 PM ET// 9 AM - 1 PM PT

**Registration Fee:** \$125 USD per person through October 13, 2021

**Registration Link:** <https://selexchange.casel.org/Register>

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