

From Tolerance to Inclusion:
Many Experiences, One Community

October 4, Tuesday & October 5, Wednesday, 2011

Featuring Guest Speakers: ***Lecia Brooks and Michele Marsh Garcia***
from the ***Southern Poverty Law Center***

The SPL Center is a non-profit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society.

Laconia Schools - October 4 & 5 - ***Respect, Responsibility and Relationships: the basis for our educational values***

Lakes Region Community College – Wed, Oct. 5 from 6 - 8:30 pm
The State of Hate and Intolerance in America: A Call to Community Building - A Community Forum on Civil Discourse in 2011

Presented by: Laconia School District, Lakes Region Community College, Laconia Human Relations Committee, Laconia Police Department, Lakes Region United Way, NH Catholic Charities, & Laconia Middle School PTO

SPLC Guest Speakers:

Lecia Brooks, *Director of Outreach*, joined SPLC in 2004 to help break down racial, cultural and social barriers in schools. She worked for 12 years for the National Conference for Community and Justice in Los Angeles. She is principal consultant for *Diversity Matters*, a consulting firm that develops customized education and cultural workshops for non-profits, institutions of higher learning, and government entities.

Michele Marsh Garcia, *Professional Development Manager at Teaching Tolerance*, has been an educator and policy advisor on issues of social justice and civil rights for 12 years. She has been with the SPLC since 2006. Previously, in Boston, she worked on anti-bias education and municipal anti-hate programs as Associate Director for the NE Office of the Anti-Defamation League.

Laconia Schools – Tuesday Oct. 4 & Wednesday Oct.5

Respect, Responsibility and Relationships: the basis for our educational values

Promoting Respectful Schools

Tuesday, October 4

4 pm – Staff Training Workshops: Grades K through 5; & 6 through 12

6 to 8 pm – Family/Community Dinner at Laconia Middle School – no charge

Presentation by Brooks and Garcia

Games & Activities for Students

Wednesday, October 5

Student Workshops by Brooks and Garcia:

Laconia Middle School – Grades 6 to 8

Laconia High School Grades 9 to 12

Superintendent of Schools Bob Champlin: The Laconia School District is committed to informing and engaging our students, staff, and parents in recognizing, reporting, and stopping Bullying in our schools. This opportunity to work with the Southern Poverty Law Center is part of our continuing professional development targeted at meeting the requirements of the NH Bullying Law. Our focus is on developing and promoting respectful schools. This two day opportunity includes staff and community partner workshops, a parent/community dinner and forum, and middle and high school student led exercises aimed at celebrating the diversity of each young person. Our mission is “developing the potential for success with every student, every day, in every way.” Go Laconia!

Lakes Region Community College

Wednesday Evening, October 6

This forum evolved out of concern for the rising intolerance and uncivil communication that marks our current national landscape. We would like to ensure that we, in the Lakes Region and New Hampshire, keep the ideals of democracy in our vision. Our goal is to foster ongoing equitable community-wide communication. We hope to set the stage for continuing conversation that positively impacts our community.

Public Presentation

***The State of Hate and Intolerance in America: A Call to Community-Building* – Brooks & Garcia**

6 pm - Dinner (no charge)

6:30 to 8:30 pm – presentation and discussion

The vision for the evening will come from our guest speakers addressing the state of hate and intolerance in the U.S. and the implications for the Lakes Region.

- What is the effect on our communities of uncivil discourse?
- What skills are needed for civil discourse in democratic society that values freedom of speech?

Be a part of conversation that moves beyond tolerance to keeping our communities inclusive and vibrant. Bring your ideas and skills for:

~ Understanding the many faces of tolerance and intolerance as basic to a good education.

~ Acquiring skills for engaging in civil discourse that values these elements of citizenship as an every-day part of our education and our lives.