



**PACE**

PARTNERS ADVANCING  
CHARACTER EDUCATION

**2012  
PACE  
AWARDS**

**Bringing Character  
to Light**

May 31, 2012

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# 2012 PACE AWARDS

## Bringing Character to Light

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Welcome** – Robyn Nance, Good Morning Northwest Anchor, KXLY

**PACE President Message** – Ben Small, Superintendent, Central Valley School District

**2012 PACE Award Recipients: Elementary** – Robyn Nance with Gold Sponsors and Superintendents

**Keynote Speaker** – Margo Long – “Grit and Gumption: the Keys to Success”

**2012 PACE Award Recipients: Secondary** – Robyn Nance with Gold Sponsors and Superintendents

**Closing Remarks** – Robyn Nance

**Group Photo** – All 2012 PACE Award Recipients and Gold Sponsors

A special thank you to the Central Valley High School Chamber Orchestra, directed by Mason Flemmer, for tonight's student entertainment.

Photos from tonight's event will be posted online and will be made available to PACE Awards recipients at no charge, courtesy of our photography sponsors.

## Keynote Speaker



*Margo Long*

Professor Emeriti, Whitworth University

*“Grit and Gumption: the Keys to Success”*

Margo Long is a lively, engaging speaker. She specializes in teaching creative problem-solving, communication and learning styles. Long founded the Center for Gifted Education & Teacher Enrichment at Whitworth University and directed the program for 38 years. She also served as an Associate Professor in the School of Education until her retirement in June 2012. Long began her teaching career in 1973 and taught for five years as a history teacher at Greenacres Junior High School in the Central Valley School District.

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## PACE President's Message

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*Ben Small*

**Superintendent  
Central Valley School District**

Welcome to the 2012 PACE Awards! Thank you for joining us to celebrate 46 outstanding students who personify many of the PACE character traits we highlight each month. This is the first time we've gathered in such a celebration, and we are deeply grateful to our event sponsors for making this evening a reality.

Focusing on a common set of character traits in our schools and community adds strength to our message that good character is important. By demonstrating, teaching and recognizing good character we nurture the social and emotional development of children, along with their academic achievement. This, in turn, creates a productive future workforce. The PACE initiative not only benefits our youth, but inspires all of us to model good character in our daily lives.

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## PACE Leadership Team

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The volunteer Leadership Team plans and coordinates PACE activities. Many team members were part of the original group of 12 organizations that founded the grassroots initiative.

**Michelle Bettencourt**  
Central Valley School District

**Brandon Comella**  
Millwood Presbyterian Church

**Brandie Evans**, Secretary  
KiDDS Dental

**Monika Hawkinson**  
HawkPics

**Nancy Holmes**  
Avista

**Elea Katzele**, Vice President  
Better Business Bureau

**Scott Kneeshaw**  
ScottGraphics

**Verne Reed**  
Central Valley School District

**Melanie Rose**  
Central Valley School District

**Randy Russell**  
Freeman School District

**Sue Shields**  
West Valley School District

**Ben Small**, President  
Central Valley School District

**Curt Stockwell**  
CGStockwell Design

**Debbie Tully**  
Whitworth University

**Wendy VanOrman**  
Quality Hardwood Floors

**Stephanie Watson**  
East Valley School District

**Heidi Youseph**  
East Valley School District

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## About PACE

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Launched in September 2010, PACE is a grassroots Spokane Valley initiative to promote the importance of good character through partnerships with schools, businesses, public agencies, residents, faith-based organizations and community service groups.

At the root of the initiative is a list of monthly character traits. Working from this common list, partners promote and integrate each trait into the regular activities of the organization. Each month features a different character trait to be the focus of multi-faceted communication, motivation and educational programs throughout the entire month. Across the Spokane Valley, our community is embracing the opportunity to work together in a cooperative effort to build good character.

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## Highlights

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Since its inception, PACE has grown to include 104 partners and 46 schools all working together to promote good character across the Spokane Valley. PACE has:

- Lined the streets with **reader boards** displaying the Character Trait of the Month and serving as reminders of the importance of good character
- Published a monthly **e-newsletter** featuring PACE partners and activities
- Launched a **website** ([www.pacecommunity.org](http://www.pacecommunity.org)) providing timely information and resources
- Secured **media coverage** through newspaper and television stories, a partnership with FOX28 and monthly guest columns published in the Current, the Liberty Lake Splash and the Valley News Herald
- Enhanced character education **curriculum** available to school counselors and teachers
- Developed a **Character Champion** program placing volunteer role models with speaking opportunities about good character in school assemblies and classrooms
- Strengthened the **connection** between schools, families and the community
- Entered the **social media** world – You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter!
- Organized the first annual **PACE Awards** to recognize students for their excellent character!

The Northeast Washington Education Council (NEWEC) is the designated fiscal agent for PACE and is a 501 (c)(3) organization

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## PACE Character Traits

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### September *Respect*

Recognizing, considering and properly honoring the worth of one's self and others

### October *Responsibility*

Being accountable, the pursuit of excellence, and the exercise of self-control

### November *Citizenship*

Positively contributing to society and community as well as dutifully respecting authority and the law

### December *Caring*

Showing a genuine concern for the welfare of others and being a kind, supportive helper

### January *Fairness*

Treating people and ideas with justice and impartiality

### February *Honesty*

Sincerity and reverence or love for the truth

### March *Diligence*

Persistence, dedication and hard work

### April *Trustworthiness*

Inspiring complete reliability and confidence in his/her truthfulness, integrity and discretion

### May *Courage*

Displaying integrity in spite of obstacles and challenges

### June *Integrity*

Living a set of values which includes honesty, respect for others and a sense of personal responsibility

### July *Generosity*

Unselfish giving and sharing of resources, time and talents with others

### August *Gratitude*

Feeling and expressing thankful appreciation for benefits received

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## 2012 PACE Awards

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Examples of outstanding character are all around us...

- The responsible student who completes their homework on time.
- The group of volunteers who generously give up their Saturday to collect food donations.
- The young man who respectfully holds the door open for his grandmother.
- The diligence of the softball team working toward their goal of a state championship.
- The citizenship of the Valley business owner who contributes to his community as a PACE partner.

Collectively, these acts of character create a community that is caring, courageous and grateful to be surrounded by others who share the same commitment and strive to demonstrate good character every day.

The PACE initiative is grounded in character education. Across the Spokane Valley, thousands of students in our public and partnering private schools focus on a shared set of monthly character traits. This gives our schools the opportunity to teach, discuss and recognize each character trait and creates a common language for families and our community to reinforce the powerful messages of good character in daily life.

One student from each of the 46 schools (K-12) partnering with PACE in the Spokane Valley has been selected to represent their school here at the 2012 PACE Awards. It was a difficult decision for our schools - to select just one student - from so many who model good character every day. Recognized for consistently demonstrating exceptional character, the students here tonight bring character to light for themselves, their classmates, their schools and community.

**Congratulations and Thank You!**

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## ELEMENTARY

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### *Meghan Salsbury*

**Grade 5 Adams Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*"Character is achieved; it is not given to you. Your attitude affects how others function and character helps everything be more positive."*

Meghan consistently demonstrates outstanding character. She is a beacon of respect in all interactions with students and staff. Her sense of fairness, responsibility and integrity lead her to accept consequences without complaint. Meghan can be trusted to do the right thing even if nobody is looking. She leads by example, setting a high standard for herself and for her peers; therefore improving any group she is working within. Whenever possible, Meghan goes above and beyond to help classmates and staff. She truly understands what it means to be a person of character.



### *Hunter Tiffany*

**Grade 5 Arthur B. Ness Elementary School  
West Valley School District**

*“You can get all your work done and you can get farther in life.”*

Hunter Tiffany is an exemplary student who exhibits “good” character traits each day. Hunter consistently puts forth good effort in his class and homework, producing quality products. He does not hesitate to assist those around him who may need extra support without making them feel inadequate. When playing sports (school/extracurricular), he includes all those playing and plays fairly. Hunter offers words of encouragement to teammates or those on the opposing team. What a GREAT kid!



### *Corinne David*

**Grade 5 Broadway Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“I think good character is important because I want to be a good person. When people are helpful everyone has a better life.”*

Students like Corinne David make a teacher’s job easy. Corinne is smart, hardworking, kind, respectful and fun. It is not often that a student with such character and personality comes along. What I love about Corinne is that not only is she diligent and trustworthy, but she is also one of the most enjoyable students a teacher could have. She is willing to take on any challenge, always trying her best, and always has a wonderful smile on her face. Corinne is a model of what a student with great character should be.



### *Eric Radmer*

**Kindergarten Central Valley Kindergarten Center  
Central Valley School District**

*“Because it’s good, fantastic, and it helps you do what you need to do.”*

Eric consistently demonstrates good character, especially diligence, courage and gratitude. He is a model student, always following the rules, listening attentively and doing his best. Eric overcomes challenges with his positive attitude and huge smile. His glass is always half full. Eric has become a leader in his classroom by always being kind, helpful, thoughtful, extremely hard-working and eager to do the right thing. He is beyond his years in compassion and being able to see where help is needed. Eric is an exceptional young person and fantastic ambassador for character education.



### *Joel Thompson*

**Grade 5 Chester Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Good character is important because good character leads to good things for all people.”*

Joel Thompson embodies all of the PACE character traits. Fairness and integrity serve as cornerstones for his interactions with everyone he meets. He demonstrates citizenship through student council and Safety Patrol. Joel’s excellent grades and Math is Cool involvement reveal his diligence. Because he is trustworthy and caring, he is often asked to care for the pets of traveling relatives and neighbors. Joel is full of humility and gratitude, leaving no room for any sense of entitlement. If you meet Joel, you too would wish he was your son.



### *Greta Helfenstein*

**Grade 3 East Farms Elementary School  
East Valley School District**

*“I think that good character is important because it makes the world a better place to live. This is why good character is important to me.”*

It has been a pleasure having Greta Helfenstein in my third grade class. Greta excels in many areas academically and socially. She brings many wonderful qualities to our school and classroom. On a daily basis Greta exhibits good character. This is demonstrated through her work ethic. She continually strives to be the best she can be as a student and a young person. If she isn’t doing math she can be found reading a book. She is always respectful with her words and actions toward adults and students. Greta is very deserving of the 2012 PACE Award.



### *Ronni (Veronica) Keizer*

**Grade 5 Freeman Elementary School  
Freeman School District**

*“If you have good character you get along with everyone and are a better person!”*

Ronni Keizer is a student who embodies all the character traits we celebrate in the monthly character awards at Freeman. As our fifth grade classroom president, Ronni demonstrates a kind and gentle leadership. She offers to help anyone in need and cares about those who struggle. Her classmates know and appreciate this about her. She is extremely conscientious as a student and always strives to do her best. Ronni Keizer is that perfect mixture of all the PACE character traits!



### *Brooke DeRuwe*

**Grade 5 Greenacres Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“To show people how you care.”*

Brooke is a leader and role model. She is respectful, polite and kind to everyone. She lifts others up when they are down and makes sure no one goes without a friend. Brooke demonstrates courage, fairness and integrity when problem solving with peers. She always does the right thing, even when it's the most difficult choice to make and she never gives up, even when things are hard. She is an active ASB representative and often volunteers her recess time to help others. Brooke's positive attitude and energy are contagious!



### *Jack Lavelle*

**Grade 1 Liberty Lake Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Doing what my teacher tells us to do even if we do not want to makes our class a better place for everyone.”*

Each month we read, teach, create examples and highlight the qualities of each character trait. Although it is difficult to find a student who truly exemplifies every trait, there is a student this year that is so polite, responsible and caring about others that he deserves recognition. It goes beyond simply knowing the traits and making the effort to be responsible, caring, or respectful. Jack Lavelle truly embodies good character. It isn't learning something new each month, it is putting a name to a trait he already possesses.



### *Rylee Felgenhauer*

**Grade 5 McDonald Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“I think it shows who you truly are and who others want to be like.”*

Rylee was nominated for the 2012 PACE Award by teachers as well as fellow students. All agree that she is kind and helpful to everyone. Rylee has always demonstrated excellent leadership while serving in the Student Senate. She is respectful, responsible and caring. Rylee is a very trustworthy young lady. She is friendly to all students, not just her friends. She is kind to everyone and is just wonderful!



### *Gracie Priddy*

**Grade 5 Opportunity Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“A person with good character is a person who is responsible and caring. They can be depended on to take care of their sisters and are helpful to others.”*

Gracie exemplifies all of the traits of good character. As our student body president, she demonstrates responsibility, integrity, diligence and respect. She is a true student leader. Gracie always treats others in a caring manner. Not only does she show leadership in our school, but her leadership extends into our community as a fundraiser for ALS. As the oldest of four daughters, Gracie provides her siblings with a model of good character. It's not hard to see how Gracie stands out as a person of good character.



### *Katelyn Buffkin*

**Grade 3 Orchard Center Elementary School  
West Valley School District**

*“It's nice to be nice to people. It feels wonderful when you help someone.”*

Katelyn consistently demonstrates all of the PACE character traits. She is respectful and caring to her peers and to adults, and she gives her best effort in all her endeavors. Katelyn is an especially caring and conscientious young lady. She goes out of her way to help others less fortunate than herself, and she does it in the most natural and unassuming way. She'll probably be a little embarrassed by all this attention, as she's not one to seek out the spotlight. Katelyn does the right thing because it is the right thing to do!



### *Olivia Roberts*

**Grade 5 Otis Orchard Elementary School  
East Valley School District**

*“I think good character is important, because it reflects being a good friend, and citizen, which is what I want to be in life.”*

Olivia was a new student to Otis this year and instantly demonstrated to all of the staff that she was a student of outstanding character. Olivia tries to be a friend to everyone, will speak up for those that may not speak up for themselves and models an example of integrity wherever she is during the school day. She has excellent grades, has many friends, and exhibits all the character traits daily. We feel very blessed to have Olivia at our school, and look forward to seeing her succeed in future endeavors.



### *Justis Wells*

**Grade 5 Pasadena Park Elementary School  
West Valley School District**

*“Good character is important because it helps us all not give up even when it gets hard to keep going.”*

Justis is a young person of outstanding character. She is a quiet leader and is thorough in her work and extra-curricular activities. As the secretary of Pasadena Park’s A.S.B. she has shown herself to be trustworthy, dedicated and responsible. Justis is a top-notch academic student and is a person of high moral character and can be counted upon to demonstrate respect and honesty. Pasadena Park is a better place because of Justis!



### *Erika Sankovich*

**Grade 5 Pioneer School  
Private School**

*“Having good character makes you a good friend and allows others to trust you.”*

Erika is a good friend to her classmates. She has excellent leadership ability. Her classmates look to her for guidance and help with problem solving. She is honest, caring and trustworthy. She shows diligence in class work and outside activities including earning a brown belt in karate!. Erika also works well as a team player.



### *Meggie Cross*

**Grade 4 Ponderosa Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Having good character is important to me because I want to have good friends that I can trust.”*

From the start of the school year, it was clear that Meggie Cross was an outstanding individual. She always shows respect to her peers, as well as the teachers, staff and supervisors. Meggie is a very reliable person who gets along with everyone. She goes out of her way to be helpful, and tries to work out conflicts. Meggie is also Ponderosa’s student body Historian and is involved in many school activities. Her leadership qualities do not go unnoticed by her peers. She is well deserving of this outstanding award.

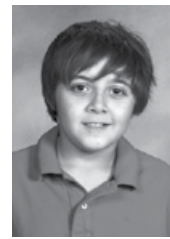


### *Ryan Anderson*

**Grade 5 Progress Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Good character shows what type of person you are. People will want to copy your good actions.”*

Ryan is a true role model to all. As our student body Vice President, he has helped spearhead our composting program. In doing this, Ryan misses some class time but is responsible about getting his work completed on time. He is a bright student and goes beyond what is expected. Ryan is very generous to other students, reaching out to special needs students and is a mentor for them. He is friends with all students and doesn’t take sides or get involved in conflict. Ryan’s friendly smile, leadership and work ethic make him a perfect PACE Award recipient!



### *Connor Shillam*

**Grade 3 Seth Woodard Elementary School  
West Valley School District**

*“The quality of a person’s character positively impacts others to improve their own lives.”*

Connor is a student whose leadership has grown each year. He is currently our acting ASB Secretary and, as a member of Seth’s Civic Thinkers team attended the EWU leadership conference. Connor is also a classroom leader. His focused and confident presence is valued by both students and staff. He consistently establishes high personal goals for his academic achievement and works tirelessly to achieve them. When working with peers, he helps others achieve success while simultaneously working toward his personal goals. Connor demonstrates true character.



### *Reese Strom*

**Grade 5 South Pines Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Practice makes perfect. PACE is the steps to an even better future.”*

Reese is one of those natural PACE students. He thinks before he speaks and acts. His teachers continually find him helping others without being asked. He is a responsible student and always turns in his work on time with best effort. Reese is self-motivated and gives extra effort in all tasks. He will be a life-long learner and often teaches the school staff something new. Reese is a banker in his classroom because he is trustworthy and fair. It is the most sought-after and demanding job. Because of his diligence, he has retained this position all year long. Teachers at South Pines Elementary would love to have a classroom full of Reese Stroms!



### *Mara Albretsen*

**Grade 5 Sunrise Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Good character is when you are fair, equal, responsible, respectful and kind. Good character is important because it makes a good person and friend.”*

Mara has consistently demonstrated the PACE character traits throughout her years at Sunrise. She is a genuinely amazing child. A hard worker, Mara is very conscientious and goes above and beyond as a student and friend. She is kind, respectful, and generous to all. Mara loves to learn, question and share. She brings out the best in others and is a wonderful listener. She shows gratitude and appreciation for all. Mara is an outstanding student, role model and example of good citizenship.



### *Jaylynn Buehler*

**Grade 6 Trent Elementary School  
East Valley School District**

*“Good character is important for leadership, kindness, courage, and for setting a good example for others.”*

Jaylynn has been recognized by the staff at Trent Elementary as an outstanding student with knowledge about what it takes to demonstrate “good character.” Jaylynn’s quality attributes are seen daily in the halls, classrooms, cafe... anywhere throughout our school... she shines.



### *Cierra Wolf*

**Grade 6 Trentwood Elementary School  
East Valley School District**

*“Good character is important to be respectful to your friends and other kids. It will help me reach my dream of being a horse trainer and a physical therapist.”*

Cierra is a terrific girl! She comes to school every day with a smile and a wonderful attitude. Not only is she a solid student and a very hard worker, but she helps at her grandmother’s youth ranch, “2BU.” The ranch teaches important life lessons through work with horses. Cierra is a delightful part of this venture. She gives it her all, helping her mother and grandparents with all the work that goes into taking care of horses and she is a positive part of the team that helps kids learn to care for and love horses.



### *Michelle Geer*

**Grade 5 University Elementary School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Good character is important to have in society because you can have good friends and jobs.”*

University Elementary is proud of Michelle Geer! She practices and portrays all of the PACE traits each and every day. Michelle has a positive, can-do attitude. She honors each and every person she comes in contact with including the most difficult people. She is fair and demonstrates great integrity. Michelle is positive in her speech, actions and facial expressions. She will help anyone at any time and still takes care of herself. She is a strong academic student, consistently putting forth dedication and hard work.



### *Jolynn Pope*

**Grade 3 Valley Christian School (Elementary)  
Private School**

*“We have to act like godly people and need to love and care for others.”*

Jolynn is a mature, good-natured, well-rounded student. She has been on the Scholar’s List for two quarters and on honor roll for one quarter. She is a good steward of the intelligence and academic skills that she possesses. Jo is wise, making good choices and influencing others to do the same. She is resourceful and possesses excellent study habits. Jo is a popular friend who is giving, patient, kind and considerate. She is a coachable athlete and a good sport. Jolynn exhibits strong character and maturity every day.

## **SECONDARY**



### *Shannon Braithwait*

**Grade 12 Barker High School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Good character is important because it shapes who you are and who you will be.”*

Shannon is an outstanding, articulate young woman who has become a strong student voice at Barker High School. Shannon consistently demonstrates the PACE characteristics in a variety of activities within and outside the school community. A member of the Key Club and Leadership Club, Shannon also serves as School Board student representative. She has been involved in the planning of many school community events including dances, fundraisers and food drives. She volunteers in elementary schools and helped secure a Distracted Driving grant. Shannon is a role model for all Barker students.





### *Daniel Barajas*

**Grade 8 Bowdish Middle School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Good character is important because you set and achieve goals you use to improve your life and the lives of others around you.”*

Danny Barajas is an exceptional example of a fine young man. He is a man of his word, is kind and thoughtful of others. He looks for ways to make his school a better place and is admired by virtually everyone. As a Leadership Team member, Danny demonstrates responsibility and diligence when asked to help. It only takes once and not only is the job done, but done very well. It is a pleasure to select Danny Barajas as the PACE Awards student from Bowdish Middle School!



### *Darby Howat*

**Grade 8 Centennial Middle School  
West Valley School District**

*“Good character is important because it makes life fun, makes wonderful friends, and a great atmosphere all around you.”*

Darby is the whole package when defining character! She holds many leadership roles at Centennial, which come with many responsibilities. Because of her proven character she is trusted 100% of the time to make the right decisions and she does. She is the A.S.B. treasurer, a member of NJHS (National Junior Honor Society), has run our student store and has maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. during her years at Centennial. She is also heavily involved in competitive swimming, and her church. Darby's positive attitude and great character makes our school a better place for students and staff!



### *Cora VanDyke*

**Grade 11 Central Valley High School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Character is important because it makes you who you are and how others see you.”*

Cora came to Central Valley High School in her sophomore year, after being homeschooled, ready to impact the world around her. A caring, generous young woman, Cora makes everyone's day brighter. She is diligent and reaches for every opportunity available to her. If she doesn't 'make the cut', she volunteers to be manager or a helper. Cora does what is right, when it is right, because it is right. She is a role model to all. Cora is dedicated to her school, to her community and is focused on making the world a better place.



### *Lydia Tombarelli*

**Grade 8 Continuous Curriculum School  
East Valley School District**

*“Our character determines our destiny.”*

Lydia Tombarelli is a delight to all who know her. She is pleasant, bright, hard-working and humble. What stands out about Lydia is her smile and readiness to help anyone who asks.



### *Chase Pritchett*

**Grade 10 Contract Based Education High School  
West Valley School District**

*“...because it creates your self-opinion, to open fears and faults into wise, courageous commitment.”*

Chase demonstrates character traits that lead to lifelong learning and enrich any community he's a part of - from the classroom, to the school to the larger Spokane community and beyond. In the classroom, Chase demonstrates respect to teachers and classmates. He demonstrates caring and citizenship by educating the community about child abuse in Africa. Chase also demonstrates integrity and courage by choosing to overcome addiction instead of letting addiction overcome him.



### *Joshua Ambach*

**Grade 12 East Valley High School  
East Valley School District**

*“Live the life you love. Love the life you live.”*

Josh has an amazing work ethic and gives generously of his time to many organizations. He mentors youth and advocates for teen issues. He is a horse rescue volunteer and deeply involved in 4-H initiatives. Josh has also been a member of the Newman Lake Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter the past year and a half. At East Valley High School, Josh is a member of the LINK crew and mentors freshmen students. He is also a member of Washington Drug Free Youth (WDFY). An excellent role model, Josh is richly deserving of this award!



### *Paul Yount*

**Grade 8 East Valley Middle School  
East Valley School District**

*“Without good character, a person would be limited in reaching their goals.”*

A natural leader, Paul often volunteers to coach other students in both technology and academics. He is a very well-rounded individual who participates in sports, dance, Honor Society, yearbook and community theatre. He loves to bake and often shares his bounty with others. Paul always exhibits a positive spirit and serves as a role model to his peers. He is well liked and respected by his classmates and teachers. Traits such as conscientious, hardworking, humble, motivated, straightforward, responsible and amicable describe this outstanding student.



### *Ellie McDonald*

**Grade 8 Evergreen Middle School  
Central Valley School District**

*“To dream is only the first step; your character determines how you will handle life’s climb.”*

Miss Ellie McDonald exemplifies the PACE character traits. Academically, she challenges herself to be responsible, diligent and courageous in order to maintain a 4.0 GPA. She continually exercises citizenship, caring and generosity through her leadership in school-sponsored community service projects, as well as fairness, honesty and integrity when participating in after school activities. Ellie’s honesty and trustworthiness cause her peers to gravitate to her as a leader. She is always thinking of ways to challenge and include her peers in her ventures. Ellie wears a warm smile of gratitude wherever she goes.



### *Peter Underhill*

**Grade 11 Freeman High School  
Freeman School District**

*“Character is consistency, honesty and kindness in the way you view yourself and others.”*

Peter brings each of the PACE character traits to life each day as a student at Freeman High School. Through his enthusiastic involvement in academics and extra-curricular activities, Peter leads by example, illustrating for his peers what it looks like to bring good character to life. In response to his nomination, staff comments like “Couldn’t think of a more worthy student” and “I imagine I could speak for all the subs when I say that Peter is a student I love to have in class; he is completely trustworthy and dependable” reflect the high esteem both staff and students have for Peter.



### *Avery Oja*

**Grade 8 Freeman Middle School  
Freeman School District**

*“Character defines who you have been, who you are, and who you will be.”*

Avery Oja is a fantastic young lady and excellent student. She is one of our strongest students, with a 4.0 GPA. She participates in softball, volleyball, and basketball. Her classmates and teachers enjoy the way she respects and interacts with everyone. Her fun-loving and easy going nature brightens your day every time she is around. Good character is who she is all day, every day.



### *Noah Whitman*

**Grade 7 Greenacres Middle School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Character is like personality. The stronger your personality, the better of a person you’ll be.”*

Noah is kind, trustworthy, respectful and a natural leader. It really doesn’t matter where you see Noah -- in the hallway, on the athletic field, or in the classroom -- he treats everyone with respect and dignity. Teachers comment on his caring attitude toward staff and students. One teacher asked a colleague, “Who was that polite young man?” When asked why she wanted to know, she said, “I don’t know him or have him in class, yet he often says hello or good morning to me.” Noah Whitman provides everyone at Greenacres Middle School with a reason to smile.

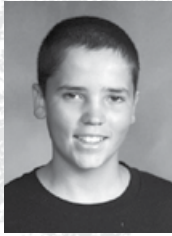


### *Lexi Ivankovich*

**Grade 8 Horizon Middle School  
Central Valley School District**

*“It shows everyone who you are!”*

Lexi Ivankovich is a mature, respectful individual who displays amazing diligence towards learning, academic achievement and athletics. She persevered though missing many days of school to spend time with her mother who was diagnosed with cancer when Lexi was in third grade. Since her mom’s passing, she has used her strength of character to work with challenging peers, including behavior students to support them in making better choices. Lexi has continually proven herself to be a well-rounded young lady both in the classroom and on the court.



### *Steven Jensen*

**Grade 8 North Pines Middle School  
Central Valley School District**

*“Nobody likes a thief or liar. Good character makes life easier, both in career and relationships.”*

Steven is kind to his peers, respectful toward his teachers and gives generously of his time to make North Pines Middle School a better place for all. He has contributed immensely to the timely completion of the yearbook by giving up his Saturdays to meet deadlines. Steven volunteers for all school and community activities including the recycling program, making locker posters and helping with the food drive. Whenever a teacher needs help, even if it isn't something fun, Steven volunteers. He is a pleasure to have in class and at North Pines!



### *Griffin Stiles*

**Grade 12 River City Leadership Academy  
West Valley School District**

*“Although good character is important, I believe that logic is paramount. Good character, however, is reinforced by logic.”*

The cultivation of good character is important at a project-based high school like RLA where students have a high level of autonomy and are expected to use that autonomy to further their own rigorous education. I can think of no other student over the course of the past four years who has risen more clearly to the challenge than Griffin Stiles. Not only has his diligence led to his acceptance at all five of the universities to which he's applied, he's also been a mature member of our learning community who has, since day one, treated all students and adults with respect.



### *Ivan Bitjukov*

**Grade 11 Spokane Valley High School  
West Valley School District**

*“Character is what others see when you live your morals.”*

Ivan is a dedicated student, positive role model, and an exceptional young man. He is the type of student all teachers would like to have. He is the first to volunteer, and the last to leave. His work is the highest quality, and always on-or-before the deadline. Ivan's dedication to community service sets an example for all who know him. He recently decided to learn Spanish for a church outreach mission to Mexico this summer. Ivan's natural ability to impact those around him through modeling positive behavior sets him apart. Congratulations Ivan!



### *Lauren Walker*

**Grade 7 Summit School/Spokane Valley Learning Academy  
Central Valley School District**

*“Good character describes you to others and helps make a powerful first impression.”*

Lauren embodies all the characteristics of an outstanding Summit School CREW member (Compassion, Responsibility, Enthusiasm and Wonder). She demonstrates integrity, gentleness and kindness to fellow students, adults and community members. An enthusiastic participant in school and community activities, Lauren is always willing to apply her skills and knowledge to help others while maintaining a positive attitude no matter what the challenge or obstacle might be. She is a self-starter who demonstrates great leadership qualities. Lauren brings the PACE character traits to light!



### *Taylor Shae Martins*

**Grade 12 University High School  
Central Valley School District**

*“It reveals who you are and helps others, and that is what I live for.”*

Taylor has gone above and beyond throughout her high school career. She always leads by example and demonstrates outstanding character. She is a great student, athlete and ASB officer who is respected by her classmates who voted her Homecoming Queen and “Best All Around” for the yearbook. She spends countless hours performing community service and during basketball season, Taylor organized the cheerleaders and ASB officers to clean up the bleachers after every home game. Many nights, however, Taylor was the only student cleaning up every wrapper and bottle. Taylor's Got Character!



### *Chantal Coyner*

**Grade 10 Valley Christian School (Secondary)  
Private School**

*“Anyone can make a sound, but character is a positive voice to our generation.”*

Chantal is Valley Christian's Associated Student Body (ASB) Spiritual Life representative. The student body elected her to this position because of her passion to see her classmates encounter Jesus and for the school to be a family community. Everyone of all ages in our school feels comfortable when they are around Chantal. This position requires the student to have a lot of respect from their peers as well as leadership skills. Chantal's good character is also very evident in her humbleness. She shows this through her great listening skills, teaching ability and transparency with her faults.



### *Rachael DesAutel*

**Grade 10 Washington Academy of Arts and Technology (WATTS)  
East Valley School District**

*“Good character can turn an inconvenience into an opportunity and a stranger into a friend.”*

Rachael embodies respect, responsibility, diligence and kindness. She thinks of others before herself, includes them cheerfully and honestly wants the best for them. In spite of her many gifts and abilities, she is other-centered and humble. Whenever a task presents itself, she eagerly participates. Rachael accepts difficulties with perspective and calm. Her integrity causes her to hold the same standards of grace and right behavior whether she is observed or alone. Steadfast and loyal, she is an asset to any group. Rachael is an excellent representative of the “living out” of character.



### *Shawen Christensen*

**Grade 8 West Valley City School  
West Valley School District**

*“It makes you who you are and determines how far you’ll go in life.”*

Shawen is the epitome of a well-rounded young student. She performs at a high academic level and sets the standard for what a good citizen should be. The staff could have picked any character trait and she would have been at the top. Shawen can often be found volunteering in the community and her school projects regularly focus on the community. Serving on the City School City Council is preparing her well to be a future leader as she often goes against the grain to do the right thing, though that is not always popular. She is amazing!



### *Jacqueline Swanson*

**Grade 11 West Valley High School  
West Valley School District**

*“Good character leaves lasting impressions, promises a bright future and delivers fulfillment throughout.”*

Jacquie recently developed a used clothing store for teens, called “Inspire”, to benefit those who couldn’t afford fashionable clothing. She has spent many hours working to get the store running and it is doing great! This project qualified her as a finalist in the STCU “Pay It Forward” contest. Jacquie was given \$100 to develop marketing for the store. Jacquie demonstrated what a caring person she is by designing a project that not only marketed the store, but also raised money and awareness for the Shriner’s Hospital. She has the integrity, honesty, caring traits that we wish all students demonstrated.

## **PACE Partners\***

- Albertsons - Liberty Lake
- Applebee's
- Avista Corporation
- Baker Construction and Development
- Bank of Fairfield
- Banner Bank
- Better Business Bureau
- Binns Family Chiropractic
- BNI Eastern Washington/North Idaho
- Brent Sorenson & Associates, P.C. Law Office
- Brighton Court Assisted Living
- Central Valley School District
- ChangePoint Spokane
- City of Liberty Lake
- City of Spokane Valley
- Clark's Tire & Automotive
- Club Spokane Dodgers
- Community of Christ Church
- Complete Suite Furniture
- Dependable Plumbing
- Dingus, Zarecor & Associates
- Dishman Dodge Chrysler
- Dr. Scott Ralph DDSMS
- East Valley School District
- Ellingsen-Paxton-Johnson Orthodontics
- Ethics Talks, LLC
- Forza Coffee Company
- Freeman School District
- Haase Landscape, Inc.
- Hangman Creek Chamber of Commerce
- HawkPics by Monika
- Hit Pit MMA
- Horizon Credit Union
- Hu Hot Mongolian Grill
- Hub Sports Center
- Inland NW Baby
- Inland Power & Light
- Intermountain Community Bank
- Itron
- Jump and Bounce
- KAYU FOX 28
- KHQ TV
- KIDDS Dental
- Kiwanis of Liberty Lake
- Liberty Closing and Escrow
- Liberty Lake Children's Academy
- Liberty Lake Police Department
- Liberty Tax Service on Pines
- McMullen Law Office, P.S.
- MDI Marketing
- Medicine Man Liberty Lake
- Mermaids of the Lake
- Mild Too Wild Upholstery
- Millwood Community Presbyterian Church
- Millwood Family Dental
- Mirabeau Park Hotel
- Mountain West Bank
- NBS Promos, Inc.
- NE Washington ESD 101
- North Pines Dental Care
- Numerica Credit Union
- Pet Vet Hospital & Wellness Center
- Pioneer School
- PODS Spokane
- Pre-Paid Legal Services/goSmallBiz.com
- Pring Corp.
- Ptera Wireless Inc.
- Purrfect Logos, Inc.
- Reflections Window Cleaning
- Rite Aid Corp
- Riverview Little League
- Rockford Community Center
- ScottGraphics
- Scribbles Preschool
- Sears Holdings Management Corporation
- Spencer's Furniture Express
- Spokane County Library District
- Spokane Gymnastics
- Spokane Shock
- Spokane Soccer Club
- Spokane Valley Chamber Foundation
- Spokane Valley Ear, Nose and Throat
- Spokane Valley Partners
- Spokane Valley Sunrise Rotary Club
- Starr Starr & Totton
- STCU
- Sunrise Bible Church
- Swing the Door Marketing Co.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- The Current
- The Mat
- The Liberty Lake Splash
- TierPoint, LLC
- Timothy P. Manson, M.D.
- US Bank, Spokane Valley Branch
- Valley Christian School
- Valley Hospital and Medical Center
- Valleyfest
- Washington State University Spokane
- Washington Trust Bank
- Well Dressed Walrus
- West Valley School District
- Whitworth University

\*as of May 18, 2012

## Getting Involved in PACE

There are many ways to participate in this exciting initiative, starting by demonstrating good character in your daily life and encouraging those around you to participate as well.

### Families:

- Do your best to personally model good character in your daily life
- Acknowledge good character in others every chance you get
- Be aware of the current Character Trait of the Month and incorporate it into personal and professional conversations
- Visit [www.pacecommunity.org](http://www.pacecommunity.org) to get new ideas and stay connected

### Businesses/Organizations:

- Join PACE and commit to the Partnership Pledge
- Display the character trait of the month with PACE posters, your reader boards and signage
- Become a "Character Champion" and be the guest speaker for a classroom activity or event
- Involve employees to strengthen the initiative within your organization and the community
- Recognize children and adults for demonstrating good character

**Become a PACE Partner. Visit [www.pacecommunity.org](http://www.pacecommunity.org)**

## Celebrating students of character throughout the greater Valley!



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A VALLEY-WIDE COMMUNITY NEWSMONTHLY

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