

For immediate release: May 18, 2010
Pls call: Roberta Israeloff, 631-662-7645

Squire Family Foundation Awards Annual Grants

E. NORTHPORT, NY – The Squire Family Foundation has announced its commitment of more than \$60,000 for four new grants and two grants already in progress designed to bring philosophy instruction to pre-college level students, and to sponsor national conferences.

The new grantees are:

Columbia University Philosophy Outreach Program
Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children
Yale University Philosophy Outreach Program
New York University – EXCEL Academy

The **Columbia University Philosophy Outreach Program**, a collaborative venture between graduate students in the Columbia University Philosophy Department and Teachers College, brings philosophy to students in both public and independent schools; the approach is tailored to meet the needs of each school. Funds will be used to expand the program to new schools and to recruit new volunteers.

The grant will also be used to sponsor a national conference on philosophy outreach programs at Columbia University on Saturday, October 16th, 2010. Representatives from graduate philosophy and education programs will gather to discuss the value of philosophy in secondary schools, lessons from existent outreach programs, and ways to raise awareness of the pre-college instruction of philosophy. Program coordinator Tim Ignaffo hopes that the conference will address both practical and theoretical concerns. Click here for more information:
(<http://www.philosophyoutreach.org/>)

The Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children, which is affiliated with the University of Washington philosophy department, brings philosophy to young students through its Philosophers in the Schools program; it also offers workshops given by educators trained to teach philosophy. It offers lesson plans, activities, and ways of using children's literature to develop philosophical inquiry. Click here for more information:
<http://depts.washington.edu/nwcenter/>

This summer, the Center will sponsor a workshop for teachers interested in introducing philosophy to their classrooms. The workshop is free of charge. For more information and to register, contact the Center's director, Jana Mohr Lone, at info@philosophyforchildren.org by June 1.

The Yale University Philosophy Outreach Program will use the grant to expand its successful pilot program through which graduate philosophy students teach the subject to students in New Haven high schools. In the fall 2010, a one-year, regularly offered philosophy course will be

taught at Hill Regional Career High School. The funds will also be used to create a critical-thinking unit that can be used in other disciplines, and to assess and evaluate the success of the course so that it can be offered to other city high schools.

The grant to the **EXCEL Academy** at **New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development** will be used to enable NYU's philosophy professor David Velleman teach "Blogic," his online logic course during this summer's session. The EXCEL Academy, a collaborative program involving Steinhardt, the Children's Aid Society, the Teagle Foundation and the Squire Family Foundation, helps prepare New York City high school students for college work and uses philosophy as a means to teach critical thinking and writing skills.