

# The Good Project

Newsletter: September 2013

## **Welcome to the Inaugural Good Project Newsletter!**

Dear Friend of The Good Project,

We hope that the new school year is starting off well! We are excited to share our inaugural Good Project newsletter with you. Our aim in launching this monthly newsletter is to share highlights from our ongoing work with friends of The Good Project. In each newsletter, you will find news updates from The Good Project, a story on individuals/groups utilizing Good Project themes and materials in their work, a feature on a Good Project idea, and links to recent blogs published on our website. If you have story ideas for future newsletters, please email us at [paromita\\_de@harvard.edu](mailto:paromita_de@harvard.edu). We hope that you will enjoy this inaugural edition!

Sincerely,  
The Good Team

## **Bloomsburg University Brings Message of GoodWork to Freshmen During Welcome Weekend**



Bloomsburg University, located in Pennsylvania, held a series of GoodWork-themed workshops for freshman on Friday August 23, 2013 during their Welcome Weekend. As part of the overall GoodWork Initiative at Bloomsburg University, Psychology Professors Mary Katherine Waibel-Duncan and Jennifer Johnson partnered with the Office of Orientation to incorporate good work concepts into the

immense task of introducing new students to campus life and leading them on their own personal journeys as they start college. Three workshops designed by the GoodWork Initiative team each focused on a different role in college life: as a Student (concerning academics), as a Person (concerning physical and mental health, relationships, and finances), and as a Citizen (concerning participation in the Bloomsburg community). During each workshop, students learned how a focus on the 3 E's – Excellence, Ethics, and Engagement – could help them navigate challenges they face as a Student, Person, and Citizen at Bloomsburg. Pictured here is an Orientation Workshop Leader (OWL) at Bloomsburg discussing with incoming freshmen how they can pursue GoodWork as a citizen of the university. For more information on The GoodWork Initiative at Bloomsburg, please visit <http://reslife.bloomu.edu/goodwork/index.php> .

### **Good Idea of the Month: The Mirror Test**

When ethical dilemmas occur in work, different factors can make it difficult to decide what the best course of action to take in a situation may be. One way to understand the impact of our actions is to use *The Mirror Test*. In his book *Five Minds for the Future*, Howard Gardner defined the mirror test as the act of pausing and reflecting on the actions of ourselves and others. Specifically, there are two kinds of mirror tests: the “individual version” and one for “professional responsibility”. The individual version entails reflecting on one’s own behavior and understanding how one feels about one’s actions. The professional version involves ensuring that one’s peers are aware of and hold responsibility for the impact of their actions. Mirror tests give us time to step back from our actions, understand what they mean, and what consequences they may have.



*How and when have you used individual or professional mirror tests?  
How did the mirror test influence your own work or that of your peers?*

### **Recent Good Project Blogs**

Check out some of our recent blog posts on The Good Project website:

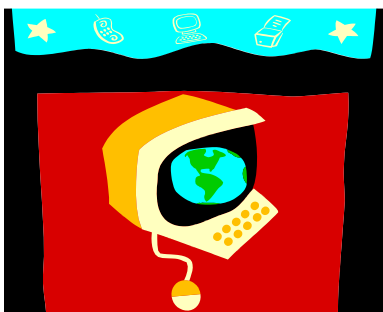
[Some Good Thoughts About Collaboration](#) (August 26, 2013)

Lynn Barendsen, Research Manager at The Good Project, discusses the recent meeting of the Civic Collaboratory and the intersection between good work and good collaboration.

[Caution – Construction Site: Using the GoodWork Toolkit in the Classroom](#) (August 20, 2013)

Shernaz Minwalla, Academic Research Program Director at University Liggett School in Michigan, shares her perceptions on teaching a mini-course on The Good Work Toolkit at this summer’s Project Zero Classroom.

### **Website Feedback**



Thank you to those of you who have sent in feedback on our website! Your feedback provides us with information to consider as we learn how our website can better serve you and how we can support the development of our Good Project community. Below are some suggestions we have received so far:

- Place the GoodWork Toolkit information in a more prominent place to make it more accessible for teachers.
- Invite more people to share their experiences with the materials and methods of The Good Project on the website, and provide a way for

individuals to share their experiences with each other.

- Create a search function for research papers (to search by author, year, key terms, etc.)
- Create a listserv for project updates
- Host Twitter Chats or Google Hangouts for individuals to discuss Good Project ideas

How can our website, Twitter, and Facebook pages further support your use of Good Project ideas? Please send your ideas to [paromita\\_de@harvard.edu](mailto:paromita_de@harvard.edu). Each response received by Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> will be entered into a drawing to receive a free copy of The GoodWork Toolkit!