

The SMARTboard

Newsletter of the New Jersey Future Educators Association—
A Publication of the Center for Future Educators at TCNJ



November/
December 2014

Three 'Generations' of NJFEA Presidents Meet at Fall NJFEA Conference



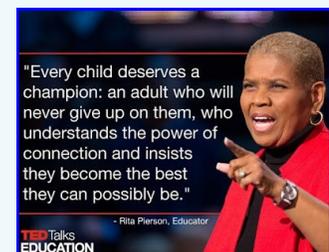
Pictured left to right: Eric Struble (2014-15 NJFEA President); Rachel Redelico (2011-12 NJFEA President); and David Eggert (2013-14 NJFEA President).

Eric, Rachel, and David met at the NJFEA Central Regional Conference at Rider University on October 23, 2014. Their dedication and skilled leadership help the NJFEA to serve the best interests of all aspiring future teachers in our local chapters across the state. Eric is currently a senior at Nottingham High School, Rachel is a junior at The College of New Jersey, and David is a freshman at Rider University.

*Read about all of the NJFEA fall regional conferences
and our other major fall events on page 2.*

Every Kid Needs a Champion

Rita Pierson, a teacher for 40 years, once heard a colleague say, "They don't pay me to like the kids." Her response: "Kids don't learn from people they don't like." Watch this rousing call to educators on [YouTube](#).



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Membership Matters! Join other aspiring future teachers in high schools and middle schools across the state and become a part of our growing network! New chapter membership fee is waived until **December 5th, 2015!** See page 8 for more information.

A Fantastic NJFEA Fall!

Two Leadership Events, Three NJFEA Regional Conferences and a Field Trip to the NJEA Convention Draw Over 1,000 Participants!

The NJFEA hosted two leadership events on September 20th: NJFEA Future Teacher Leadership Institute and the NJFEA Advisors and Students Leadership Conference. Also this fall, the NJFEA hosted three regional conferences in an effort to increase opportunities for participation by more chapters/schools. The annual conference drew between 400 and 500 students, so we nearly DOUBLED participation this year with the three conferences! This year's regional conferences were held at Rowan University (October 10th), Kean University (October 17th), and Rider University (October 23rd). The NJFEA is very pleased to have had such a terrific turnout!

Leadership from the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) welcomed the participants at each of the conferences (Mrs. Marie Blistan, NJEA Vice President at Rowan University; Mr. Sean Spiller, NJEA Secretary/Treasurer at Kean University; and NJEA President, Mr. Wendell Steinhauer at Rider University). Current and former NJFEA State Officers were also present at each of the conferences.

The November 7th NJFEA Field Trip to the NJEA Convention was also a great success again this year. It was a great opportunity for the students to hear the Convention's

keynote speaker, visit the Convention floor, as well as network with each other, and have dialogues about major issues in education today.

The NJFEA had its own booth again this year on the Convention floor and, once again, it attracted many who did not know about our organization, as well as many who wanted to become involved in some way.

The NJFEA state officers arrived on Thursday, November 6th, and saw Thursday's high-profile keynote speaker, Pasi Sahlberg, who authored the new book *Finnish 2.0 – What Can the World Learn from Educational Change in Finland?* (due for release in December 2014). The Officers also had the opportunity to meet in the Convention Press Room with Mr. Mark Mautone, 2014 NJ Teacher of the Year; Mr. Bruce Salmestelli, a local school district union representative, and Mr. Andrew Lewis, a former Urban Teacher Academy student who now teaches elementary school in Old Bridge, NJ.

Thank you to all who joined us for a “fantastic fall.” We look forward to seeing you again at future NJFEA events!

See the “Photo Albums” on the Center for Future Educators Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/centerforfutureeducators>.



“Future Teachers Making a Difference” Service Projects— Excellent Proposals Submitted!

Proposals were accepted through Friday, November 14th, for the New Jersey Future Educators Association’s 2014-15 statewide service project: “Future Teachings Making a Difference.”

We are pleased to announce that we have received outstanding leadership proposals supporting the NJFEA’s commitment to developing among its members sound leadership qualities and a strong commitment to improving their local schools and communities. From what we have seen in these proposals, there is no doubt that our future teachers will make a difference this year and going forward!

Up to 10 of those "Future Teachers Making a Difference" service project proposals will be selected by a special NJFEA committee and recommended for filming by the Emmy-award winning Classroom Close-Up that will appear on NJ public television next fall.



* Margaret Mead, born on December 16, 1901, in Philadelphia, PA, was a cultural anthropologist and writer. Mead is credited with changing the way we study different human cultures. When she died in 1978, she was the most famous anthropologist in the world.

NJFEA State Officers Identify Resources for Future Teachers from the NJEA Convention

The NJFEA state officers selected the resources below as being of particular interest to them and for future educators. We encourage you to review these resources identified by your officers and share them with your chapter members and others.

New Jersey Public Television (<http://www.njtvonline.org/>)



WNET Education (<http://www.wnet.org/education/>)



PBS Learning Media (<http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/>)



Scientific Learning (<http://www.scilearn.com/products/fast-forward>)



Black Rocket (Educational Video Game) (www.blackrocket.com/edu/njea)



Teacher Coach (www.teachercoach.com)



New Jersey Odyssey of the Mind (www.njootm.com)



GPS Network (Greater Public Schools Network, collaborate, connect, etc) (<http://www.gpsnetwork.org/>)



Sony Virtuoso Digital Language Lab Technology (easier way to learn a second language) (www.ctalabs.com)



New Jersey School Jobs (<http://njschooljobs.com/>)



Celebrate New Jersey (no cost, engaging, effective, curriculum-based writing programs and contests for Grades K-5) (www.celebratenj.org)



Important for Future Teachers --"What is the Common Core?"



What is the Common Core? It is a question that will most certainly be asked over and over again in the next few years. To this point the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) have not been discussed much or dissected by the national media, thus many Americans are not yet familiar with the Common Core. That will be changing as we near the 2014-2015 school year which will be the first year that the [Common Core Standards](#) will be fully implemented.

The short answer to the question is that the Common Core State Standards are potentially the most revolutionary public school reform in the history of United States education. Most public school teachers and students will be impacted significantly by their implementation. The way students learn and the way teachers teach will have to change because of the nature of the Common Core.

The implementation of the Common Core State Standards will thrust education, particularly public education, into a spotlight that it has never been in before. This will be both good and bad. Education should be a focal point for every American, but too many people take it for granted or worse place no value on education at all.

As we move forward, the American mindset towards education will have to change. The development and impending implementation of the Common Core State Standards are a step in the right direction. However, if the entire community doesn't buy in and do their part, then the implementation of the Common Core State Standards could be disastrous. The following information will help you better understand the Common Core State Standards, your role with its implementation, and its potential impact.

Read the full article by Derrick Meador, Teaching Expert,
at: <http://teaching.about.com/od/assess/tp/What-Is-The-Common-Core.htm>.

Resources for the Common Core

What's Right about the Common Core

<http://www.njea.org/news/2014-02-10/what-s-right-about-common-core-and-how-nj-is-getting-it-wrong>

Common Core State Standards

www.corestandards.org

NEA CCSS Toolkit

<http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/Common-Core-State-Standards-Toolkit.pdf>

Student Achievement Partners

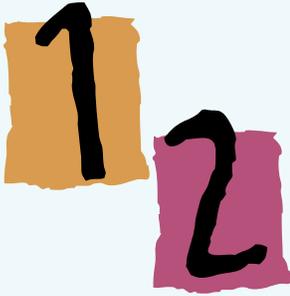
www.achievethecore.org

PARCC Assessments

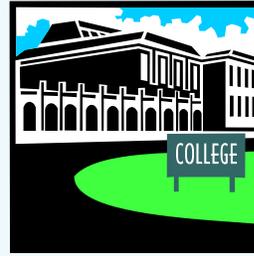
www.parcconline.org

New Jersey Department of Education

www.state.nj.us/education/sca/



12 Tips for Getting into the College of Your Choice



College admission officers carefully assess your high school grades, courses, test scores, essays, activities, recommendations, and interviews, if required. You will increase your chances of getting into the colleges of your choice by following these 12 tips:



1. Get the best possible grades you can during ALL four years of high school. Grades are extremely important.
2. Take academically rigorous classes ALL four years. You should carry as many challenging courses as you can handle—college prep, Advanced Placement (AP), honors, and International Baccalaureate (IB).



3. Practice taking the SAT or ACT. Become familiar with the types of material covered and the test directions. Take the PSAT during your sophomore year. Determine what knowledge and skills you lack and master them for the actual tests. Take advantage of free online SAT or ACT materials, study guides, practice tests, tutors, and prep courses before or during your junior year.



4. Try taking both the SAT and ACT. Colleges will accept either test. You may do better on one test than the other. This will boost your chances for admission. Take the SAT or ACT more than once if you are not satisfied with your scores.

True	False
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5. Take SAT Subject Tests and AP Tests. Competitive colleges may require you to take some of these exams and they take note of exam results. Only AP scores of five (5) are accepted by top colleges.



6. Spend sufficient time developing your college essays. Think and reflect before you write. Write, edit, rewrite. This is your opportunity to sell yourself. Convey who you are in your writing: energetic, exciting, passionate, and intellectually curious. How can you make the real “you” stand out from the rest of the crowd? Get feedback on the essays from your teachers and/or other school personnel.



“12 Tips” continued on page 6.

12 Tips for Getting into the College of Your Choice *(continued)*



7. Become involved in your school and/or community during ALL four years and summer vacations. You need to keep track of your involvement in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, sports, and/or volunteer activities in your community. Move up to leadership positions. Demonstrate growth. Develop a deep interest or talent in one or more areas.

8. Ask your school counselor and teachers who know you well for recommendations. At least a month in advance of college deadlines for recommendations, jog their memories by providing them with a “personal data” or “brag sheet” highlighting your academic accomplishments, athletics, activities, and community service and leadership positions. Also, highlight anything special you did during the summer (for example, foreign travel to improve language skills, volunteer work, projects).



9. Prepare for on-campus interviews, if required by colleges. Re-read your essays and any information you have acquired on specific colleges. Be friendly and articulate. Dress professionally, not casually. After the interviews, send thank you notes or e-mails expressing your continued interest in their institution.

10. Decrease your stress by starting your search for colleges early—no later than the start of your junior year. This gives you adequate time for researching colleges, completing applications, writing essays, and taking necessary exams.



11. Get organized and stay focused. Make a file folder for each college that interests you and put relevant information inside of it (for example, a copy of your application and essay, any materials downloaded from the Internet). Keep focused on your ultimate goal: Getting into the college of your choice. Use these checklists to plan the tasks you should take to get into the college of your choice:

[Grade 9 College Planning Checklist](#) [PDF]

[Grade 10 College Planning Checklist](#) [PDF]

[Grade 11 College Planning Checklist](#) [PDF]

[Grade 12 College Planning Checklist](#) [PDF]



12. Get ongoing assistance from your school counselor and teachers. Don't be afraid to ask them questions no matter how simple your questions may seem.

See more resources at: <https://www.calcareercenter.org/Home/Content?contentID=174>.

FEA Scholarships for Future Teachers



The Future Educators Association is sponsored by [PDK International](#). One of the many ways that PDK supports FEA and fulfills its vision of cultivating great educators for tomorrow is through the [PDK Educational Foundation](#). The PDK Educational Foundation awards more than 30 scholarships each year to prospective educators who have a connection to PDK through membership in FEA or by having a family member or teacher who is a PDK member.

Applications for the 2015 [Prospective Educator Scholarship](#) are now being accepted. The deadline is April 1, 2015.

Eligible students must meet one of the following criteria:

- High school senior intending to major in education who is a member in good standing of the Future Educators Association®
- High school senior intending to major in education who is the child or grandchild of a PDK member in good standing
- High school senior intending to major in education who has one of his/her reference letters written by a PDK member in good standing
- High school senior intending to major in education whose application is selected to represent the local PDK chapter
- An undergraduate member of an FEA or PDK chapter who is enrolled in a college education program

Questions? Email scholarships@pdkintl.org.

How to Thrive During your Field Experiences



Photo: monkeybusinessimages/iStock/ThinkStock

How prepared are you for the process of becoming a teacher? You have likely developed good study habits that got you to college. These are a great foundation to help you do well in a teacher preparation program. But how prepared are you for an equally important component of educator preparation programs — field experiences? Field experiences, also referred to as practicums or clinical experiences, are part of every accredited teacher preparation program. These pre-student teaching experiences place you in a preK-12 classroom where you have the opportunity not just to observe, but also to learn about teaching by interacting with teachers and students.

Your field experiences will provide an opportunity for you to experience teaching and learning from the perspective of a teacher. Seeing and experiencing teaching from this angle will help you confirm that you have chosen a major that is right for you.

Not only do field experiences build confidence regarding your choice of career, they also provide a great opportunity to increase your confidence as you develop your teaching skills. There is nothing like real world opportunities to practice and apply all that you have learned about in your college classes. Concepts like lesson planning, teaching strategies, assessment, and classroom management come alive in preK-12 classrooms and give life to the pages from your textbooks.

Read the full article on the national FEA website [here](#).

Your NJ Future Educators Association: A National Leader!

Did you know that New Jersey has more local FEA (NJFEA) chapters than any other state in the nation? It's true!



Here are the newest NJFEA Chapter members since July 1st:



North Hunterdon High School
Palmyra High School
Paulo Friere Charter School
Penns Grove High School
Pennsville Memorial High School
Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies
Plainfield High School
Salem County Career and Technical High School
Union County Vocational-Technical Schools
West Morris Mendham High School
William C. McGinnis Middle School



Welcome New NJFEA Chapters!

Get your membership (chapter or individual member) on the
Center for Future Educators website at:

<http://futureeducators.pages.tcnj.edu/files/2014/08/New-NJFEA-Mmbrshp-Brochure.pdf>.



Hoboken educator named New Jersey's State Teacher of the Year



By Kathryn Brenzel / NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
on October 01, 2014 at 2:16 PM



Mark Mautone—
Photo: NJEA

HOBOKEN — A Hoboken special education teacher has been named New Jersey's top teacher for 2014, the state Department of Education said on Wednesday.

Mark Mautone, who teaches preschool children with autism at Wallace Elementary School, was named New Jersey's State Teacher of the Year for 2014. He was selected among 21 county teachers and beat out six finalists for the statewide honor.

“Mr. Mautone has a deep enthusiasm for helping his students overcome the challenges they face so that they can receive the best experience possible in the classroom,” acting Education Commissioner David Hespe said in a statement. “He is an inspiration to teachers, parents and members of the community.”

In April, Mautone was [named Hudson County Teacher of the Year](#), marking the first time in 16 years that a Hoboken teacher received the title. Mautone has been teaching for 19 years and is known for using technology to improve instruction for autistic students.

“It is my belief that all children, despite the obstacles, deserve the highest quality of education possible so that they can learn to their maximum potential and lead a productive life as independently as possible,” Mautone said in a statement.

As part of the teacher of the year program, the Mautone will be granted a six-month sabbatical worth \$60,000 from January to June 2015, according to the state Department of Education. During this time, Mautone will work with the DOE on special projects and give presentations throughout the country. He will also get to meet President Barack Obama, the DOE said.

Reprinted from NJ.com. Read the original article [here](#).

Read more about 2014-15 NJ Teacher of the Year, Mark Mautone, on the [NJEA website](#).



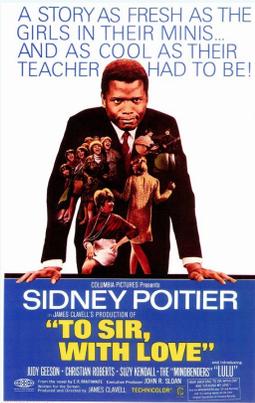
Photo: Reena Rose Sibayan/The Jersey Journal



Photo: NJEA

Top 10 Inspirational Movies for Future Teachers

An inspirational teacher can make a difference to a student, providing guidance and support at a crucial moment in a young person's life. The classroom – with all its inherent drama, conflict, and diversity – has provided the perfect setting for many movies. Whether it's the passion of a young, idealistic teacher or the wisdom of a seasoned vet, these films remind us how important an educator can be in forming young minds.



Read [here](#) about all of the movies that made the Top 10 list.

Classroom Close-Up, NJ

Classroom Close-Up, NJ is a half-hour television program that features innovative projects in New Jersey public schools. The 12-time Emmy® award-winning show is in its 21st season and airs on [NJTV](#) every Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 11:30 p.m.; and Saturdays at 5:30 a.m. The show is sponsored by [PSE&G](#)

Classroom Close-Up, NJ is the only half-hour program in the country devoted to featuring the positive things happening in public schools. Here you can watch current shows, search for stories that have aired the past two decades, check out the video contest, become a fan, view the photo gallery, and check out the schedule and monthly guide.



<http://www.njea.org/about/classroom-close-up>

NJFEA/FEA Featured Chapter Activity:

Ethical Dilemma

Note: This competition can be adapted from the national FEA Competition Guidelines to be a local NJFEA/FEA chapter activity.



In this activity, the chapter must debate an ethical education-related dilemma. This competition requires members to think deeply about an ethical issue, employ critical-thinking skills, and use persuasive communication techniques to collaboratively debate an ethical dilemma. To participate, each member of the chapter must first thoroughly consider the ethical issue and begin to form an individual position on the topic. Then the chapter members must debate the topic together, listening carefully to each other's opinions.

Through the discussion, the chapter members must come to a consensus on the topic and then prepare a 10-minute live presentation stating their chapter's view.

The chapter must work as a team to develop the live, 10-minute presentation and then select at least two and no more than four students from the chapter to present the chapter's opinion and how it was reached.

Read more about the activity purpose and guidelines [here](#).





Ideas for Active Chapters



Teacher Appreciation Projects

- Monthly drawings for appreciation gifts (fruit baskets, “teacher goodies,” free car wash, etc.)
- Holiday and other occasion cards
- Classroom bulletin board help
- General assistance in classroom
- Promote teaching and teachers on a special FEA bulletin board
- Host a special event (e.g., breakfast)

Other School Projects

- Tutoring (peer and elementary)
- Teacher aide service
- Teacher Shadow Days
- NJFEA scholarship program (offer scholarships to graduating seniors)
- Education forums (invite speakers to chapter meetings: student teachers, State Teacher of the Year, local school superintendent and board members, local chapter president, etc.)
- Feature articles in school newspaper (highlight different teachers, invite teachers to contribute articles on “Why I Love to Teach”)

Community Projects

- Adopt-a-road (highway)
- Book drive for local library
- Provide service for the home-bound (yard raking, grocery shopping, etc.)
- Food drives for local shelters (or blankets, coats, etc.)
- Adopt-a-family at the holidays
- Contact state and local agencies for suggestions for helping those in need

Chapter Promotion

- Develop and keep a club scrapbook or web site; display at PTA meetings and other events
- Keep a NJFEA Bulletin Board and update monthly
- Utilize school newspaper, morning announcements, etc.
- Have several poster campaigns throughout the year
- Make a group picture for the school yearbook
- NJFEA floats for homecoming, parades, etc.
- Share your club’s activities with the local newspaper, radio stations, etc.

Fundraising Ideas

- Plan a special event and sell tickets: Teachers vs. Seniors basketball game; Talent show; Dance
- Garage sale
- Car wash/yard raking
- Collect recyclable items
- Favorite teacher contest
- Carnation/candy-gram sales
- Bake sales, stationery sales, etc.
- Partner with local businesses

Note: Always obtain approval from school administration for fundraisers.



Get Ready for Another Exciting Year Ahead— Sneak Peek at 2015 Preliminary Schedule of Conferences & Events

June 2, 2015: NJFEA Southern Regional Conference
Richard Stockton College

June 9, 2015: NJFEA Middle School Conference
The College of New Jersey

June 29-30, 2015: Tomorrow's Teachers Training
Fairleigh Dickinson University

July 1-2, 2015: Tomorrow's Teachers Training
Rider University

July 27-August 7, 2015: Urban Teacher Academy at
The College of New Jersey

[Get the 2015 UTA Brochure and Application Now!](#)



Mark your calendars!

Happy Holidays!

Look for the next issue of *The Smartboard* in January!

2014-15

NJFEA STATE OFFICERS

Eric Struble, *President*

JonBonaè' Shipman, *Vice President*

Emily Vena, *Secretary*

Amiel Holliday, *Central Region Representative*

Sara Ruane, *Central Region Representative*

Imani Robinson, *Southern Region Representative*

Got News? Got Ideas?

Tell us what is important to you and share news about your chapter!

Email your news or ideas to: Mr. Larry Fieber, NJFEA State Director, at feiber@tcnj.edu. We will include them in our newsletter, and/or post them on the Center for Future Educators website or on the CFE -NJFEA Facebook page!

Visit us on the Web at:

<http://futureeducators.pages.tcnj.edu/>

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