

The SMARTboard

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



May / June 2015

Your NJFEA is “Brand” New!

New and exciting things are about to happen with the New Jersey Future Educators Association (NJFEA)! Our mission is to become our nation’s leading state network that encourages and inspires today’s middle and high school students who are exploring or planning to become future teachers.

Beginning on July 1st, NJFEA will become an independent organization that will remain affiliated with the national Future Educators Association that will be called Educators Rising. Joining the NJFEA will include membership without charge in Educators Rising. NJFEA members will receive regular information about innovative programs offered by Educators Rising such as on-line videos, future teacher resources and online discussions, and micro-credentials/achievement badges.

NJFEA membership for the 2015-16 school year is only \$10 per person, a great value. This fee includes include priority registration at our state-wide regional conferences and workshops, future teacher leadership programs and service projects, our bi-monthly newsletter, “The Smartboard,” chapter incentive grants and scholarships, urban-suburban student exchanges, our 2015-16 NJFEA Advisers Handbook “Starting and Leading a Local NJFEA Chapter”, and much more.

Because NJFEA is now an independent organization funded by the New Jersey Education Association, all chapters need to register for membership. NJFEA membership and registration information can be accessed at <https://www.thinkregistration.com/feaaff/nj/>. Students can join as part of their NJFEA chapters or Tomorrow Teachers course electives. Individual student membership is also available by contacting Larry Fieber, State NJFEA Director, at fieber@tcnj.edu or at 609-771-2464.

If it is your dream to teach, or if you are interested in exploring what a career in teaching can offer you—and what you can offer it—you owe it to yourself to join the NJFEA. You will become a part of a strong and growing statewide network of your peers who have similar aspirations. Through the NJFEA, you will also connect regionally and nationally with an expanded network of your peers to help you find your place and your voice as tomorrow’s teachers—tomorrow’s leaders!

Together, we will make the NJFEA a national model for developing and supporting young people who aspire to meet the challenge of a career in education. A teacher influences the course of history each time she or he touches the life of a student.

Change the course of history! Join us!



Become a member today at:
<https://www.thinkregistration.com/feaaff/nj/>

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The Value of Membership



New Jersey
Future Educators
Association

Join YOUR **New Jersey Future Educators Association** and become a part of our growing network of today's high school and middle school students across our state and nation who aspire to become tomorrow's teachers!

Register today at: <https://www.thinkregistration.com/feaaff/nj/>.

The benefits of membership in the New Jersey Future Education include all of the following, which are available to only NJFEA members and at no additional cost:

◆ No-Cost Attendance at:

- Annual Regional NJFEA Conferences
- Annual NJEA Convention in Atlantic City

◆ Free Resources, including:

- Bimonthly Official Newsletter of the NJFEA, "The Smartboard"
- NJFEA Chapter Advisor Handbook
- Videos, Interactive On-Line Activities, & Programs from Educators Rising, our National NJFEA affiliate

◆ Eligibility for:

- NJFEA Achievement Award Recognition
- NJFEA Chapter Incentive Grants and Scholarships
- Recognition by the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)
- Service as NJFEA State Officers (including Special Leadership Training for State & Chapter Officers)
- Service on the NJFEA Advisory Board (for Chapter Advisors and NJFEA State Officers)

◆ Opportunities to:

- Network Statewide with other NJFEA Chapters and Individual Members
- Participate in Future Teacher Leadership Training
- Participate in the Annual NJFEA Recognition Dinner (for NJFEA State Officers and Achievement Award Winners, their Families, and Guests)
- Participate in Urban-Suburban Student High School Exchanges
- Participate in Statewide Service Projects
- Receive Advance Notification & Application Packages for Urban Teacher Academies



Today's Students

Tomorrow's Teachers

Tomorrow's Leaders

\$10 per individual membership – a cost of only \$1 per month from September 1st – June 30th. Includes membership in the NJFEA and free membership in the new national "Educators Rising."



Membership is open to NJ high school and middle school students. Students may register online as part of their NJFEA chapter or as individuals. There is no chapter fee.



NJFEA chapter advisors and other individuals wishing to support NJ's aspiring educators may also register at the \$10 rate.

LAURENCE R. FIEBER,
STATE DIRECTOR, NJFEA

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Urban-Suburban Student Exchanges Catching on Fast!



The NJFEA hosted two more urban-suburban student exchanges on **April 17th** and **April 25th**. The first exchange of the year was held on **February 17th** and a fourth will be held on **May 29th**. Schools involved in these exchanges included: Henry Snyder High School (Jersey City), South Brunswick High School, West Windsor Plainsboro High Schools North and South, Middletown High Schools North and South, and the Foundation Collegiate Academy (Trenton).

These exchanges offer rich opportunities for aspiring educators to get firsthand experience in observing differences between urban and suburban schools. The exchanges also serve as important vehicles for opening up dialogue and understanding between students from different schools and communities.

Here's what some of our participating students have said about the exchange program:

Some fellow students and I had the opportunity to go to Foundation Academy on April 21st. Foundation Academy is a charter school in Trenton, New Jersey. As a student from Middletown High School North, located in the suburbs, my friends and I had mixed stereotypes going into an area where we were not very familiar. Would the school size be different? Would it be unsafe? The stereotypes we had about the school, students, and community were false. After meeting a group of students from Foundation, we created a bond. After all, they had stereotypes about us too. I am very happy that I had the opportunity to experience this exchange and have come to realize that we all have so many things in common, even though we are from different areas of NJ. I look forward to meeting with my new friends on May 29th when they come to Middletown North!

Sydney Fairhurst, Middletown High School North

When Mrs. Pearson told us that there was a trip to Trenton I jumped on the opportunity. I was excited to go on the trip and experience something new. Being from the suburban town of Middletown I didn't know what to expect, except for things that I had heard from other people or on the news. When I was on the bus going up to Trenton was when I really started thinking about the possibilities that the school could've been like; I honestly didn't know what to expect. When we pulled up to The Collegiate Foundation Academy it looked like another building in the area. As we got off the bus I was nervous as to what the students would think of us, not being from the city and being white. Of course I had speculations about their lifestyle, but I tried not to cloud my head with them as I walked into the school.

Our introduction to the school was full of facts that I didn't know about charter schools in general. As the counselor and academic advisors began to tell us about the procedures and rules in the academy I thought to myself that they were so much stricter. They then brought in the students we were going to shadow and I met Siani. We began to talk about typical things such as siblings and jobs and then made our way to English class. The class was very interactive and the teacher knew all about the students such as their living situations and their family life. We then went on to eat lunch and Siani invited me to sit with her friends. Her friends welcomed me and my friends to sit them and joked around with us. I expected to get weird looks from other students in the school but that was not the case at all.

Through my duration at the school I did not receive one dirty look and no comments were made to me. I really enjoyed my time at The Collegiate Foundation Academy. Being able to experience the urban schooling was so much different than our school. You can see that the relationship between them is much more in depth but does not cross the boundaries of teaching ethics. This experience was one that I will forever remember and think that everyone should experience!

Megan Grano, Middletown High School North Senior



National FEA to become “Educators Rising”



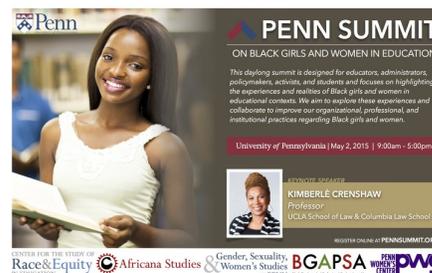
The major impetus for FEA’s evolution is to provide more tools, resources, and connections to our members, with a special focus on teacher leaders since. A stronger, better resourced network will support more students trying out teaching and becoming highly skilled, committed young educators. To that end, the national FEA will transition to *Educators Rising*, which is **launching this summer**. (The end of the 2014-2015 school year will be the end of the FEA brand.) Through the move

to *Educators Rising*, the national organization seeks to help its members take advantage of expanded resources and support. Learn more about the new national organization [here](#).

NJFEA Vice President, JonBonae’ Shipman Served as Panelist at Summit on Black Girls and Women in Education



We are pleased to announce that JonBonae’ Shipman, NJFEA Vice President, served as a panelist on “The Voices: Black Girls and Women Speaking Out” as part of The Penn Summit on Black Girls and Women, Saturday, May 2, 2015, at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.



The [Penn Summit on Black Girls and Women in Education](#) focused on highlighting the experiences and realities of Black girls and women in educational contexts. The Summit explored these experiences and collaborate to improve our organizational, professional, and institutional practices regarding Black girls and women.

A “No Nonsense” Teacher: Mr. Jack Walsh

By Imani Robinson, 2014-15 NJFEA Southern Region Representative

Mr. Jack Walsh has been teaching for 10 years at Lenape Regional High School. He is the coach is the girl’s track team coach and teaches in the Business Department at Lenape. He teaches my Co-op class first period. Mr. Walsh is a no nonsense teacher who always tells his students the true aspects of life and the future; pleasant and unpleasant. He strives to have his students learn how the real world functions and gives his students the knowledge on how to have a successful life and career.



His 25 years of business ownership gives him a unique perspective to bring to the classroom that allows students to see how classroom topics are applicable to their lives. His ability to treat his students like adults, honesty, and his belief that all students can have a successful future make Mr. Walsh a teacher who has made a difference in, not only my life, but so many other students’ lives as well.

Mr. Walsh is confident that future teachers are entering this field for the right reasons. His hope for the future of education is that students focus more on learning and less on grades. “People worry too much about getting into college straight out the gate and miss out on learning all that they can in high school. I wish high school would be about high school and college would be about college.”

NJFEA State Officers' Blog:

The 2015 Teaching & Learning (T&L) Conference in Washington, D.C.

Amiel Holliday:

This trip to Washington, D.C. was very informational and exciting — everything from just traveling there, to learning about our nation's capital, to having the opportunity to see the House of Representatives and the Senate in session! On this trip, I learned how to use the maps to navigate through the subway metro which will most definitely be a useful skill when I go off to college. However, the most important lesson that I learned came during the T&L Conference itself. I attended the Digital Learning Day and had the opportunity to talk with two "gifted" children from a middle school in New Jersey. They talked much about their school and the gifted program that they were so proud to be a part of. What struck me most was their maturity. After a long conversation with them, I asked how students get into the program. They responded excitedly, saying that everyone is accepted into the program because everyone is gifted in their own way. Hearing this from children only 12 and 13 years of age was just amazing and extremely interesting. When I become a teacher, that is what I will tell my students: "Each of you is gifted in your own way."



Sara Ruane:

From the moment we stepped off into Washington, D.C. I knew the weekend would be one of the most educational, inspirational, and most memorable experiences I have ever had. Seeing everything from the magnificent architecture to the beautiful parks to our nation's capital was just amazing to witness. I learned a lot on this trip, not just the amazing history facts or the educational tips I learned at the conference, but I also learned about myself. I realized that hands down being a teacher is what I am made for and realized that what I am doing to prepare to be a teacher is making memories that I will be able to share with my students one day! During our trip, one key thing I will remember is that creativity and imagination go a long way! Without new ways of thinking and building we would not have our country unified; we wouldn't have the beautiful architecture that houses our branches of government; we would not have our high quality educational system. Creativity is always forming around us! I am so grateful to be a part of this wonderful organization and so happy that I was able to participate in the T&L Conference in Washington, D.C.!



JonBona' Shipman:

The trip to Washington, D.C. for The Teaching and Learning Conference was as inspirational as it was educational. We had the opportunity to interact with many different people while in D.C., which made this experience even more impactful. The opportunity to tour the Capitol Building and see where our Congresspersons and Senators meet was almost unbelievable. On that same day we had the chance to go to Ford's Theatre where the assassination of Abraham Lincoln took place—and we even got to see a show while there. Understanding the history of this country and where and how laws are created and passed was a once in a lifetime experience.



What made this trip even better was actually attending The T&L Conference. The breakout sessions that I attended really resonated with me and I got the opportunity to see Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space, speak about her experiences and, most importantly, talk why education is important to this country. The overall experience left me with many stories to go home with and allowed me to better understand why I should be a teacher and why I definitely want to be one.

Continued on next page.

Imani Robinson:

My experience on the NJFEA's trip to the Teaching and Learning Conference in Washington, D.C. was one that will not be forgotten. As a group, we had the opportunity to see almost all of the D.C. landmarks, including touring the Capitol Building. Seeing the amazing architecture and some of the greatest historical paintings in our nation was an exciting moment for me. We also got to see the White House at night when it lights up the sky. Walking around D.C. there is no denying the beauty of the city and the reasons why it is our nation's capital.



The amount of history in Washington, D.C. is never-ending (and the facts Mr. Fieber knows about the city is also never-ending). Going to the T&L Conference really helped me see history from a different perspective. It was at the T&L Conference that I met a vibrant group of middle school students teaching grown men and women how to make robots out of pipe cleaners and a motor. They were so mature for their age and their excitement for learning got me excited for teaching. Even though they were "gifted" students, they kept repeating "Every child is gifted in their own way." The fact that these children are able to think about learning in that way, and take on challenges like building a robot with self motivation is amazing. These kids are truly the future of our nation. To be a teacher, and to guide kids along the path to making history—that is something I have no doubt I want to be a part of.

Eric Struble:

The trip to Washington, D.C. was a life changing experience for me. Being in a place with so much rich history and importance really made the experience an unbelievable one. Meeting a man whose group had been protesting in front of the White House 24/7 for over 30 years was amazing. He had so much to tell us and he was a great example of someone who stands up and is passionate about what he believes in.

We also had the opportunity to explore some of the many beautiful places in the Washington, D.C. area. We saw the White House in its true beauty at night, took a tour of Ford's Theatre where President Lincoln was assassinated, and toured the beautiful Capitol Building, which was probably my favorite place. Seeing the elaborate design and paintings in the Rotunda and hearing the deep history behind them was very interesting to learn about. Another place I really enjoyed was Arlington Cemetery, where I was able to witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I also heard many stories of military members that were buried there, along with former President John F. Kennedy and his family.



What made this trip complete was attending the Teaching and Learning Conference. There I was able to listen to teachers and leaders from around the country talk about new things they are doing in their communities to further the education of their students. A main topic was the use of technology, and one idea that I heard that was particularly creative was a community using the school buses as mobile hotspots for their students to use at night to complete assignments. I also attended a breakout session focusing on literature and another on how teachers are now utilizing social media to connect with students. Overall, I left the T&L Conference as a better future educator myself, and also learned many things about how education is working around our country. The trip to Washington, D.C. was not only fun, but a great learning experience.

Teachers as Role Models

“This school year is the first in U.S. history where the majority of public school students are non-white. Long referred to as ‘minority,’ the term no longer applies.

“This has huge implications for our schools and kids. As we seek to do more to support the learning and development of our most diverse group of American students yet, we face a major challenge. Today, while student demographics shift, our teaching force remains mostly white. African-American and Latino teachers [comprise less than 15 percent of the teaching workforce](#). In [over 40 percent of public schools](#) there is not a single teacher of color. Working to close the teacher diversity gap stands as a critical element of our work to close the educational opportunity gap more broadly. As in all industries, we need leaders as diverse as the people they serve.

“During a recent installment of “[Ask Arne](#),” a series where educators ask U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan critical questions about school-level issues, I discussed my experience working as a teacher in New York City to create a positive school culture—one that managed discipline in an unbiased and constructive way, especially for young African-American boys. I also shared my belief that my presence as a black male educator was important for all kids, not just those who look like me.”

The above is an excerpt from “Teachers as role models in changing classrooms” by David J. Johns (March 25, 2015, *Columbia Spectator*). Read the full article [here](#).



Illustration by Mikhail Klimentov, Columbia Spectator, 3/25/15

Test Score Cheating Case

“ATLANTA — In an unexpectedly harsh sentence after a polarizing six-year ordeal, eight of the 10 educators convicted of racketeering in one of the nation’s largest public school cheating scandals were sentenced to prison terms of up to seven years Tuesday after they refused to take sentencing deals that were predicated on their acceptance of responsibility and a waiver of their right to appeal.”

The New York Times

The above is an excerpt from an April 14, 2015 *New York Times* article by Richard Fausset and Alan Blinder. Read the full article [here](#).

Former UTA Student Now a Teacher and Published Author!



Rachel Goldberg, a former UTA student, collaborated with Drs. Nathan Magee and Lauren Madden in writing the article, “Using Authentic Data to Enhance Middle School Atmospheric Science Instruction.”

The article was published in *Science Scope* magazine on April 1, 2015. To read an excerpt of the article and to find out how to access the full article, visit the [HighBeam Research website](#).



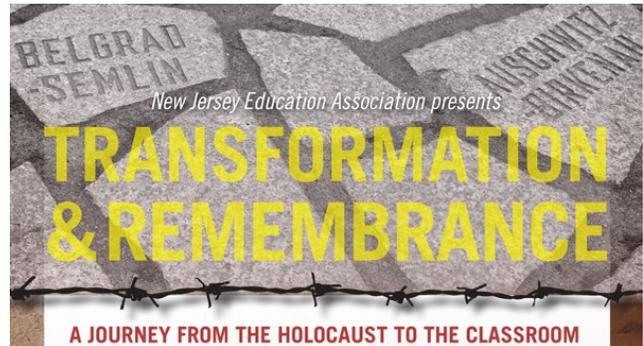
A Journey from the Holocaust to the Classroom

An NJEA documentary follows a group of New Jersey educators as they visit sites of the Holocaust. The trip changed their lives and the lives of their students.

Tune in to NJTV tune on:

- ⇒ May 16 at 1:30 pm
- ⇒ May 20 at 8:00 pm
- ⇒ May 22 at 2:00 am & 10:30 pm

Last summer, the group of 30 New Jersey educators visited Germany, Czech Republic, Poland and the Netherlands. The crew of the NJEA's television show "Classroom Close-up, NJ" joined those educators in Berlin and Prague.



The New Jersey educators brought back the lessons of the trip to their classrooms. Three teachers from Sterling High School in Somerdale focus their lessons on what it means to "step up," rather than "stand by as onlookers."

New Jersey is one of only five states to mandate Holocaust education in the public schools. This accomplishment is largely due to the success of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education and its executive director, Paul Winkler. Commission member Maud Dahme, a longtime member and former president of the New Jersey State Board of Education, was recently inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame. As Holocaust survivors, they are committed to ensuring New Jersey's children never forget about the Holocaust and that they recognize their responsibility in preventing violence and injustice.

For complete information visit: <http://classroomcloseup.org/transformation-remembrance/>.

PTA Teacher Appreciation Week



Teachers play a key role in student success and sometimes a simple "thanks" is all a teacher needs to feel valued. Take the time to celebrate your students' teachers during **2015 PTA Teacher Appreciation Week May 4-8**.

PTA Teacher Appreciation Week is the perfect time to personally thank your students' teachers for their sacrifices and support for children throughout the year.

To help you plan for the week, The National PTA created a [promotional toolkit](#) with ideas and resources you can use to honor teachers:

- **Send a [thank you card](#)** to your students' teachers and ask your students' teachers how you can support them throughout the year.
- **Show your support** for the tremendous work teachers do by volunteering in your students' classrooms.

Tell us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) how you plan to appreciate your students' teachers using the hashtag #ThankATeacher.

Follow our [PTA Pinterest boards](#) for teacher appreciation ideas.

Updated 2015 Schedule of Conferences, Events, & Activities

May 26, 2015 – Final Articulation Meeting/Service Project Presentation

May 29, 2015 - Urban Student Exchange (Middletown High Schools North & South and Foundation Collegiate Academy)

June 2, 2015 – NJFEA Southern Regional Conference, Stockton University—[Conference Flyer](#)

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

June 10, 2015 - The College of New Jersey Urban Teacher Academy Orientation

June 11, 2015 - Annual NJFEA Recognition Dinner

June 29-30, 2015 – Tomorrow’s Teachers Training, Fairleigh Dickinson University

July 1-2, 2015 – Tomorrow’s Teachers Training, Rider University

July 6-17, 2015 – Urban Teacher Academy at Richard Stockton College

July 6-19, 2015 – Summer Teacher Academy at Fairleigh Dickinson University—[Brochure](#)

July 13-24, 2015, STEM Teacher Academy, Rider University—[Brochure](#)

July 20-31, 2015 – Urban Teacher Academy at Rowan University

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

September 25, 2015 — NJFEA Northern Regional Conference, William Paterson University

November 6, 2015—Annual NJFEA Field Trip to the NJEA Convention

See the Center for Future Educators website [‘Events’ page](#) for updates on conferences, events, and activities!

Enjoy the summer! “The Smartboard” will return in September!

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!

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