

The SMARTboard

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



September / October
2015

Welcome from NJEA Vice President, Mrs. Marie Blistan

Welcome to the New Jersey Future Educators Association! NJFEA membership is the first step on your journey to take your rightful place amongst one of the noblest professions in the world. As you learn more about the teaching profession and its responsibilities, just remember one thing...with great responsibility comes great reward. It isn't a reward that can tangibly be seen or articulated. Instead, it is the intrinsic reward of a job well done and the reward of making a difference in the world—and this is what will define your career and will continue to drive our profession. I look forward to calling you a colleague someday.



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

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And much, much more inside!

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!

Get information on NJFEA membership on page 17!



The NJFEA is a supporter of the national Educators Rising organization for aspiring future teachers. Visit the [Educators Rising website](#) or more information.

Meet the 2015-16 NJFEA State Officers!

Katelyn Page, Manchester Township High School, NJFEA President

Katelyn is a senior at Manchester High School in Manchester, New Jersey. She plays varsity soccer as well being a varsity javelin thrower. She enjoys writing as well as learning about history. Katelyn is keeping her career options open. She is considering teaching high school social studies or possibly teaching special education at the elementary school level.

Makenzie Kern, Burlington Township High School, NJFEA Vice President

Makenzie is a senior at Burlington Township High School in Burlington, New Jersey. She plays field hockey and softball and is a member of the National Honor Society. Makenzie is also an animal foster mom for the Burlington County Animal Alliance. Teaching has long been a dream of Makenzie's as she plans to major in early childhood/elementary education in college, and minor in special education.

Joely DeMonte, Nottingham High School, NJFEA Secretary

Joely is a senior at Nottingham High School in Hamilton, New Jersey. She is captain of her school's color guard, and also serves as swim team manager. Joely also participates in the spring musical. Joely aspires to become a high school social studies teacher.

Nicholas Quintero, Passaic Valley Regional High School, Northern Region Representative

Nicholas is a senior at Passaic Valley Regional High School in Little Falls, New Jersey. He is passionate about becoming a teacher and hopes to one day teach social studies. Nicholas is president of his high school Amnesty Club, a candidate for NJ Boys State, and is a founding member for Student Advocates for Safety.

Samantha Nielsen, Hopatcong High School, Central Region Representative

Samantha is a senior at Hopatcong High School in Hopatcong, New Jersey. She enjoys being with friends, going to the beach, spending time at the gym, taking road trips, and just being a teenager. Samantha coaches cheerleading, and one day hopes to become a second or third grade teacher.

DJ Hager, Middletown High School South, Central/Southern Region Representative

DJ is a senior at Middletown High School South in Middletown, New Jersey. He enjoys sailing and volunteering at his middle school's arts center assisting younger children with plays and musicals. DJ plans to become a high school social studies teacher.

Congratulations 2015-16 NJFEA State Officers!



**Katelyn
Page**



**Makenzie
Kern**



**Joely
DeMonte**



**Nicholas
Quintero**



**Samantha
Nielsen**



**DJ
Hager**

“A Teacher Affects Eternity...”

By Jennifer Gallo



“A teacher affects eternity. He can never tell where his influence stops” (Henry Adams). One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching is the everlasting impact one can have upon a child. Each year teachers are presented with a diverse group of malleable young minds. Your job is to educate them and see that each child achieves success with the given curriculum. As a teacher, you must address the standards, manage ever-evolving curriculum and technology, and aspire for your students to obtain proficiency on state tests, all while your evaluation depends upon your attainment of these goals. Aside from these responsibilities, a teacher’s impact is accomplished through personality, demeanor, and the mood in the classroom every day. Treating children as if each one of them is special and important can have a deeper-rooted impact than the content you are expecting them to master.

In considering advice for future teachers, the one distinctive point to emphasize would be to establish personal connections with your students. Learn their interests, hobbies, likes and dislikes. Talk to them each day about something that matters to them, compliment them, and appreciate them. Put a smile on their faces as they enter your classroom. Display kindness daily and the result will be students who feel that they have entered a comfortable environment in which they feel safe to take chances, academically and personally. Allow them to see your sense of humor. Let them know your dog’s name, your favorite color, and your hobbies. The power of this connection cannot be undervalued. Once your students see this personal side, balancing the curriculum and your professionalism is effortless.

Communicate with parents to convey a positive message about their child. Making one phone call a week to compliment a child is a simple, yet invaluable task. Students are proud when their parent tells them the teacher called to say how amazing they are and to celebrate their accomplishments. They appreciate this kindness. Make a point to do this with your most challenging students.

Learn from your students and your colleagues. Be open-minded when presented with unfamiliar tasks, just as you would expect your students to do. As a teacher, you are expected to be a lifelong learner. Spending time learning to celebrate the differences and diversity your students display will no doubt make you an effective teacher. Remain positive, even when you feel defeated. Given the great variety in this profession you are bound to feel so at times. Gain your strength from knowing that you still have a positive impact upon the life of others. Each year will be different, each student will be different, and every day will be different from the last. Embrace this challenge. Your goal as a teacher is to educate their minds and to touch their hearts.

Jennifer Gallo is a *Special Education Teacher at Timberlane Middle School, Hopewell Valley Regional School District.*

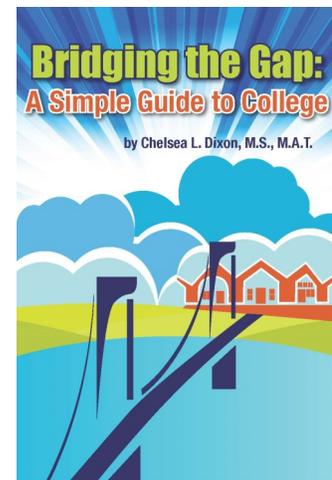
DO YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE BUT ARE NERVOUS AND AFRAID BECAUSE:

You don’t know much about it?

You don’t know where to look for information?

*You don’t know how or when to start the
planning process?*

You are not alone! There are lots of others out there who feel exactly the way you do. *Bridging the Gap: A Simple Guide to College*, by Chelsea Dixon, is an easy to read, easy to follow guide with useful and practical information that will give you the foundation and confidence you need to get started on the right path.



Author Chelsea Dixon is founder and CEO of a company that provides services in academic and athletic programming for the underserved and underrepresented minority youth and young women in our urban communities.

Learn more at
[Bridging the Gap.](#)



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“The Biggest Role of My Life: Teacher”

By Maggie Muir

Every single day I wake up excited to go to work! I absolutely LOVE my job! Unlike many of my colleagues I never had the childhood dream to grow up spending my days grading papers and washing chalkboards (good thing, since we can only find said chalkboards in museums or on the internet). Instead, I was destined for fame and greatness; which I've actually achieved, but on a different stage.

Every single day, I look forward to seeing my kids; and, every single day, I learn something new from them. Every single day I play the biggest role of my life: teacher, counselor, mother, lunch packer, sweatshirt provider, tutor, life coach, listener, etc. The fame I've earned comes from not only what we accomplish in our classroom, but through rapport with all students (even those not in my classroom) and promising through my actions and words that I love my students every single day and will always support them to the best of my ability. This “fame” is acknowledged by the smiles, high fives, kind words, graduation invitations and other accolades from my students (and non-students), which are far greater than any Tony or Academy Award I could ever earn.

Every single day I face unimaginable challenges; they're unimaginable but not insurmountable. Most days the challenges have nothing to do with my kids or our classroom, but everything else outside of our learning community. Some days my babies come to class completely unengaged. Usually it has nothing to do with me or our class, but because they arrived to school with an hour of sleep because they were up late studying for their 8 AP classes, or winning the world championship of a video game (true story!!), or taking care of siblings before school, or working their other job, or a myriad of other unimaginable challenges that I've been fortunate enough to never have encountered. These are the challenges we face on a daily and even hourly basis, but we must face them head-on with an open mind and open heart.

Every day I read a letter or two from previous students (not former as they're mine forever!). I keep a folder filled with them, I post them to my bulletin board in my office, I even keep photos of some of them that were written on the whiteboard (with amazing colors!) to remind me of why I do what I do. I recommend to you to do the same. Find joy in your students. Find joy in the day-to-day activities, find joy with your colleagues and find joy every single morning as you prepare for what could be the greatest day of your life!

Maggie Muir is a High School Spanish Teacher
(10 years), Franklin Township Board of Education



New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NJACTE)

The New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NJACTE) is an organization whose work is focused on the preparation and professional development of teachers and educational leaders in the State of New Jersey. Its purpose is to promote the learning of all PK-12 students through the high-quality, evidence-based preparation and continuing education of teachers and teacher leaders. NJACTE provides an effective voice for teacher education at the state level on matters of policy related to teacher education, educational leadership, and advanced study in education. Regionally accredited baccalaureate or graduate colleges and universities which have nationally accredited (NCATE or TEAC) teacher education and/or educational leadership programs in New Jersey are eligible for membership in NJACTE.

[See where you can go to college in NJ to become a teacher:](#)

[Bloomfield College](#)

[Caldwell College](#)

[Centenary College](#)

[The College of New Jersey](#)

[College of Saint Elizabeth](#)

[Drew University](#)

[Fairleigh Dickinson University](#)

[Felician College](#)

[Georgian Court University](#)

[Kean University](#)

[Montclair State University](#)

[New Jersey City University](#)

[Princeton University](#)

[Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)

[Richard Stockton College of New Jersey](#)

[Rider University](#)

[Rowan University](#)

[Rutgers University – Camden Camps](#)

[Rutgers University – Newark Campus](#)

[Rutgers University – New Brunswick](#)

[Campus](#)

[Saint Peter's College](#)

[Seton Hall University](#)

[William Paterson University](#)

Why Now?

All students, regardless of background or zip code, deserve effective teachers. These skilled educators mitigate achievement gaps, increase graduation rates, and elevate the performance of their peers. Of all aspects of schooling, teachers have the most influence on student achievement.

Teaching has never been more complicated or more important. And with extraordinary demand for new teachers and the urgent need to close gaps in the teaching workforce, we must address the pipeline now.

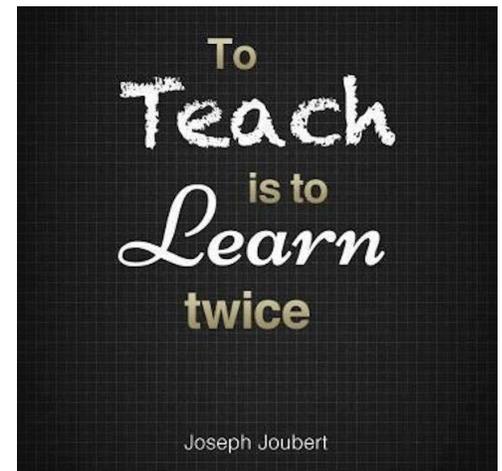
The Need is Staggering

Over the next decade, American public schools will need to hire 1.5 million teachers. But when it comes to preparing teachers for certain subject areas — like STEM, special education, and bilingual education — or recruiting diverse populations into the profession, the existing, incoherent pipeline isn't cutting it.

- Only 16 percent of American high school seniors are proficient in mathematics and interested in a STEM career.
- Approximately 10 percent of special education teachers do not have the required license to teach, and the demand for special educators is growing.
- The demand for bilingual educators is outpacing that of other teachers due to the continuously increasing number of students who are English language learners.
- More than half of American public school student population are students of color, yet more than 80 percent of teachers are white.
- 62 percent of new teachers report that they graduated from their preparation program unprepared.

The need for high skilled educators is great. NJFEA offers a sustainable way for every community to grow their own teachers to meet their local workforce demands.

Source: *Educators Rising* (<http://educatorsrising.org/the-challenge>)



“Teacher Shortages Spur a Nationwide Hiring Scramble (Credentials Optional)”

By Motoko Rich
New York Times, 8/9/15

“In a stark about-face from just a few years ago, school districts have gone from handing out pink slips to scrambling to hire teachers.”

“Across the country, districts are struggling with shortages of teachers, particularly in math, science and special education — a result of the layoffs of the recession years combined with an improving economy in which fewer people are training to be teachers.”

“At the same time, a growing number of English-language learners are entering public schools, yet it is increasingly difficult to find bilingual teachers. So schools are looking for applicants everywhere they can — whether out of state or out of country — and wooing candidates earlier and quicker.”

“Some are even asking prospective teachers to train on the job, hiring novices still studying for their teaching credentials, with little, if any, classroom experience.”

Read the full *New York Times* article [here](#).

“‘Geography of Poverty’: 5 Facts Future Teachers Should Know”

By Bridget Todd, [MSNBC](#)

All across the U.S., families are struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table. And while poverty may look different from the Southwest to the Rust Belt, the numbers are singularly staggering. Forty-five million citizens meet the official guidelines for poverty as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Here are five facts that might change the way you think about poverty.

[Poverty is impacting kids.](#)

For the first time in more than 50 years, the majority of America’s public schoolchildren are living in poverty.

According to the Southern Education Foundation, low income students now make up a majority of the schoolchildren attending the nation’s public schools.

[Poverty is different along racial lines.](#)

African-American households are more than twice as likely to struggle to put food on the table because of financial difficulties as white, non-Hispanic households.

According to Feeding America, counties with majority African-American populations are disproportionately represented among the top 10% of counties with the highest rates of food insecurity.

[There are more homeless students in the United States than ever before.](#)

According to the Department of Education, during the 2012-13 school year, 1,258,182 public school students across the U.S. were homeless. Of these students, 75,940 are unaccompanied young people living on their own.

[Poverty is worse for women.](#)

Women are more likely to live in poverty than men. Female headed households are more likely to live in poverty. It’s even worse for black and Latina women, who are twice as likely to live in poverty as their white counterparts.

[Income inequality is getting worse.](#)

The gap between America’s poor and America’s wealthy is staggering.

According to the Pew Research Center, in 2013, “the median wealth of the nation’s upper-income families (\$639,400) was nearly seven times the median wealth of middle-income families (\$96,500), the widest wealth gap seen in 30 years when the Federal Reserve began collecting these data.”

POVERTY

Learn more about poverty in America. Check out:

[Geography of Poverty](#)
[A journey through forgotten America](#)

Photos by Matt Black

Written by Trymaine Lee

Leading Learning for Children From Poverty

Six effective practices can help teachers help students from poverty succeed.

What bridges the gap between a culture of despair and a future of hope for children who live in poverty?

The answer is simple: effective educators who will not settle for mediocrity, who will not accept excuses for why these children can’t learn, who are willing to do whatever it takes to help each child succeed, who establish supportive environments where children learn to bounce back from life’s negative circumstances and thrive.

Read more on the [Association for Middle Level Educators \(AMLE\) website.](#)

Urban Teacher Academy The College of New Jersey

By Gabrielle Krutan, 2015 UTA at TCNJ and Senior at South Brunswick High School

The Urban Teacher Academy at The College of New Jersey was an amazing opportunity. The program was nothing like I have ever experienced. It was a journey throughout the two weeks preparing us for our future, meeting people with similar interests and amazing teachers that gave us great insight into the teaching profession.

We went on many trips and had presenters come and give us information about their specialized field. The program focused on the subjects that have a shortage of teachers. We learned about the needs for urban and special education. The STEM subjects are also in high demand. Throughout the program, we went to urban schools and I gained a new perspective on the need for good teachers in the schools. Many professors and teachers talked about early, elementary, and secondary education. Some of the presentations that really impacted me were when the prisoners from the correction facility came and told their stories. It gave me a new found knowledge of what people go through if they don't have the right foundation and encounter some difficulties. We went to the schools that catered to students with different special needs and I saw how caring and compassionate they are with every student. Some of the lessons I learned were the real impact a teacher can have on a child's life. One of the amazing quotes that Mr. Fieber said was "Kids don't care what you know until they know that you care." Only when you make a connection with the child will they let you into their world and you will be able to truly help them.

Many people were a vital part of the experience I had. The students were all very nice and enthusiastic during the program. I learned a lot from my peers as well as the teachers assistants (Rachel, Arianna and Kayla) who made it a success. The people who came to speak to us were influential. They really helped me learn about the different aspects of education. Lastly but certainly not least, an extremely important part of this program was Mr. Fieber. He has such a passion for what he does. He believes that kids are the future and their education is vital to becoming a lifelong learner. He says every child deserves to learn and have a good role model who cares about them. He has opened my eyes to the joy of teaching and what being a teacher really means. Teachers don't just work from 9-3:30. The responsibilities of a teacher is beyond inside the classroom. You are an imperative person in a child's life and you can either benefit them or not. Mr. Fieber dedicates his time to helping the future teachers of the world be ready for what they will experience. He has committed his time to helping people and that showed me that we need to make a better community for our school through education at an early age. The Urban Teacher Academy was an amazing time that I will never forget.



Gabrielle Krutan



**See all photos from the
2015 Urban Teacher
Academy at The
College of New Jersey
on the Center for
Future Educators/
[NJFEA Facebook page!](#)**



2015 Urban Teacher Academy at The College of New Jersey

Summer Teacher Academy Fairleigh Dickinson University

By Dr. Miriam J. Singer, Associate Professor, Director of QUEST Program

It's September, classes are beginning and your 12th grade English teacher assigns the dreaded essay: *What I did this Summer*. So what will you have to say? Anything exciting this past summer?

Sixteen rising seniors and one 1 sophomore (he slipped in with our group) had a two-week teaching experience at FDU's Summer Teacher Academy (STA) hosted and sponsored by the School of Education (SOE). Focusing on STEAM (STEM + Art) subjects, these future teachers investigated and participated in a variety of teaching-related activities associated with water (this year's theme) as a resource and a force of nature.

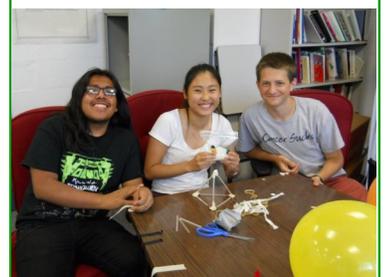
Participants learned about issues related to our theme of water including water quality, tsunamis, hurricanes, and waterfalls. They visited the Meadowlands RIVERKEEPER for a pontoon boat tour of the Hackensack wetlands; learned about environmental clean-up of superfund sites; visited the Great Falls in Paterson followed by a tour of the Paterson Museum; learned about lesson planning; did a "read aloud" with children from FDU's Camp Discovery; and taught actual lessons about a variety of water-related topics to older children from FDU's Camp Discovery. Our future teachers collected, incubated, and studied bacteria samples in the university's science lab. They also had an opportunity to work with technology and create presentations to show their families at our final luncheon. Every day was a new experience and, while somewhat tired, our future teachers were eager to come each day and see what was in store for them.

So who are these young, rising educators? From where do they come? Well, many of the participants come from Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, and Essex counties. However, we also had students join us from Morris County and even one who came in daily from Brooklyn, NY! Our future teachers were a nice mix of young men and women and extremely diverse in their social class, race, ethnicity, language, and special needs. Yet, it was a cohesive group who made new friends and learned to work well with each other in a short time.

Many of our participants have plans to apply this year to FDU's SOE and other teacher education programs for admissions in September 2016. Participants will be eligible for academic scholarships including the coveted Peter Sammartino Education Scholarship.

What is really exciting to us as professors is the participation of our current SOE students, our Teacher Candidates, who joined us as teaching assistants. About eight of our teacher candidates took turns working with our STA participants. They had the opportunity to use their teaching skills and to mentor the high school students. Nothing speaks louder than seeing our own students in action! Best of all, some of these teacher candidates were themselves STA participants in the past.

STA has run for four years now. Participants are chosen by application (HS GPA, essay, and 2 letters of recommendation). There is no cost to participants. What a great way to "sample" a university and to spend two weeks in July. Can you write this in your September essay?! What will you do *next* summer? We know what we at the School of Education at FDU are doing next summer—continuing this great initiative!



Urban Teacher Academy Rowan University

The Rowan University Urban Teacher Academy (RUTA) hosted 24 rising juniors and seniors in the 2015 cohort. The participants along with the four 2014 RUTA mentors worked with 22 Kindergarten through 3rd grader learners in reading and literacy related activities. The two week program culminated with reader's theatre presentations to parents, family and friends of the 2015 RUTA members and our young learners.

The RUTA participants also completed a service learning activity that presented over 30 children's books to seven urban pre-kindergarten and head start programs with the hopes of encouraging children with posters to "Read Like You Breathe: Every Day."



Check Out the Classroom Close-Up NJ Video Database!

Classroom Close-up, NJ is a half-hour television program that features innovative projects in New Jersey public schools. The 13-time Emmy® award-winning show is in its 22nd 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. The show is the only half-hour program in the country devoted to featuring the positive things happening in public schools.

Search the Classroom Close-Up NJ video library [here!](#) The website also highlights featured videos and recently added videos.

Learn more about Classroom Close-Up [here](#).



Caucus: NJ Education Programs

A new Caucus: NJ program—"[Families in Focus: Grow Up Great: Parents Make the Best Teachers](#)"—featured Mark Mautone on the panel discussion. Mr. Mautone is the 2014-15 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year. The show examined parental involvement in early education programs and the ways we can enhance learning during these important developmental years.

Also see these Caucus: NJ programs:

- "[Early Childhood Education: A Smart Investment](#)" (addresses investment in early education to help to sustain effective education through adulthood)
- "[Grow Up Great: Caucus Up Close](#)" (addresses the expansion of quality pre-school education and its impact on communities)
- "[Mark Mautone—New Jersey Teacher of the Year 2015](#)" (one-on-one interview with Mark Mautone)

Learn more about Caucus: NJ programming [here](#). questions. I will follow up if anything on the schedule changes.

STEVE
ADUBATO
ON THE AIR

TED
IDEAS WORTH SPREADING

Inspiring videos from TED Talks recommended by your NJFEA Student Officers:

- ♦ [How to fix a broken school? Lead fearlessly, love hard](#)
- ♦ [Teach teachers how to create magic](#)
- ♦ [Every kid needs a champion](#)
- ♦ [Hey science teachers — make it fun](#)
- ♦ [A teacher growing green in the South Bronx](#)
- ♦ [Shane Koyczan: "To This Day" ... for the bullied and beautiful](#)
- ♦ [Trisha Prabhu: Rethink before you type](#)
- ♦ [Carol Dweck: The power of believing that you can improve](#)

See the full TED Talks Education Video Catalogue [here](#).

Great Movie for Future Teachers: "McFarland USA: Championship Run"

McFarland USA is based on the true story of a 1987 cross country team from a predominantly Mexican-American high school in McFarland, California.

"Champions can come from anywhere."

See the movie site [here](#).



Ideas for Active NJFEA 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 (Valentine’s Day)
- Bake sales, stationery sales, etc.
- Partner with local businesses



Note: Always obtain approval from school administration for fundraisers.

Future Teacher Urban-Suburban Exchange Visits

During school year 2014-15, the Center for Future Educators sponsored three Future Teacher Urban-Suburban Exchange Visits. These visits give students the opportunity to visit other high schools that differ from their own to learn from the peers and from educators in those schools. Aspiring future teachers from five high schools participated in the 2014-15 exchanges: Henry Snyder High School (Jersey City), South Brunswick High School, Middletown High School North, Middletown High School South, and the Foundation Collegiate Academy (Trenton).

The experience of these visits helps to open dialogue and build bridges across communities. Sensitizing aspiring future teachers to the need to break down barriers between communities that differ socio-economically will open doors to lasting, positive change in schools and communities across the state.

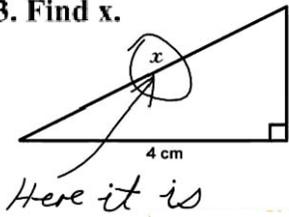
Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities for more Future Teacher Urban-Suburban Exchange Visits.



Ethical Dilemma

At age 22, Angela Whitlock is thrilled to begin her teaching career at **Hollings Hill Middle School** — the school she once attended as a student in her small hometown. She has been assigned to be the school's only eighth-grade math teacher. Just like all other math teachers at Hollings Hill Middle School, she will teach five periods per day, with a total of 130 students on her roster.

3. Find x .



On the first day of school, Ms. Whitlock gives all of her students a “pre-assessment,” a short test covering a range of math concepts in order to check their knowledge and skills. The students all took the test and handed the papers to her on their way out at the end of the period.

That night Ms. Whitlock scored the students' work and the results shocked her. Almost half of the students didn't finish the assignment, even though she was sure there had been plenty of time. Close to twenty students only wrote their names and made no attempt to solve any of the math problems. Of the students who actually attempted to do the math, many made basic computational mistakes.



Based on the results of the pre-assessment, only about five of her 130 students could be considered “on grade-level” for math, with many students appearing to be two or more grade levels below where they should be.

The next morning before school Ms. Whitlock visited Mr. James, the teacher in the classroom next to hers. Mr. James had been teaching seventh-grade math for 11 years and seemed to be well-respected in the school, although Ms. Whitlock didn't know him very well. She told him about the data from her pre-assessment.

Mr. James answered, “That's okay. The whole idea is they have to show growth by the end of the year, so it's actually good if they can't do anything now. As long as they can do slightly more by May, you're golden.”

Given this start, what should Ms. Whitlock do during the rest of the first month of the school year? What goals should she set? Who should she reach out to? How should she do it? What strategies should she implement in her classroom?



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER DURING YOUR DEBATE OF THE DILEMMA:

1. Discuss what it means for teachers to have high expectations for students. Why does it matter? What does it look like in action? What are the consequences of lowering expectations?
2. What does that look like when it happens? When, if ever, should expectations be modified? How do factors beyond an individual teacher feed into expectations made of students.
3. Discuss student engagement and motivation. How can new teachers successfully support student engagement and motivation, especially in the beginning of the school year?
4. Explore academic interventions for students with low skills. What options are available for teachers to pursue?
5. What are the benefits and best practices for educators to networking with parents and colleagues? How can relationships with parents or colleagues be strengthened, repaired, or even ruined?

Source: educatorsrising.org/virtualcampus



Your NEW NJFEA!



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 became 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.

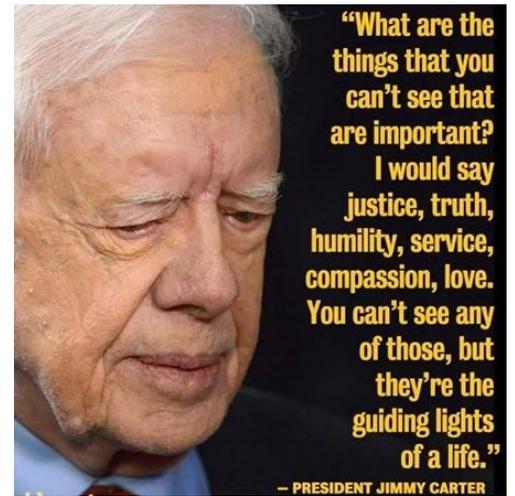
NJFEA membership for the 2015-16 school year is only \$10 per person, a great value. This fee includes include priority registration at our state-wide regional conferences and workshops, future teacher leadership programs and service projects, our bi-monthly newsletter, "The Smartboard," chapter incentive 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!



Teachers are "guiding lights" for future generations. Join us to explore the many opportunities offered by a career in education to learn, teach, lead, and serve!

National FEA Becomes "Educators Rising"

The major impetus for FEA's evolution was to provide more tools, resources, and connections to the national organization membership, with a special focus on teacher leaders. 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 transitioned to *Educators Rising* this past summer. 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](#).



The NJFEA also supports the efforts of the national Educators Rising and encourages student and chapter membership in the national organization, for which there is no charge.

Make a Difference—Be Part of the World's Largest Clothing Recycle Drive

The New Jersey Future Educators Association (NJFEA) invites the participation of area high schools/middle schools/colleges to support the 100th anniversary of the Trenton Mission. The Mission is one of the oldest and most respected non-profits in New Jersey. The Mission is described as a place that "makes miracles happen" by providing to Trenton area residents with emergency shelter, addiction services, education, job training, and development, and housing programs. This past summer, several TCNJ Urban Teacher Academy students had a first-hand opportunity to visit the Mission.

This fall, the Mission hopes to break the Guinness World Record by sponsoring the largest collection of clothing for recycle/donation. The current record is 153,240 items--that's a lot of clothing!

Socially responsible recycling has a vast environmental impact but truly impacts the Mission. First and foremost, the clothing donations are distributed free of charge the Mission's clients in its emergency shelter, or to those who simply cannot pay. Clothing donations are also resold in our Mission Thrift Store, one of the largest retail outlets in the City of Trenton, at very affordable prices. Lastly, whatever cannot be resold or distributed is sold in bulk and the proceeds go back to the continued operations of the Mission's social service programs.

Please see the following important information about this Mission's upcoming clothing/re-cycle drive.

When is it?

Clothing drives may begin at any point; however, all donations must be received by November 14, 2015. Students have complete flexibility in creating and scheduling their clothing drive.

Cardboard boxes for collecting are available by request--any boxes or bags will do!

The official attempt will be on **November 14th & November 15th** at the Lawrenceville Armory, 15 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ, at which time the general public is welcome to drop off any donations and also join in on the celebration.

Acceptable items to donate:

- Most articles of clothing: shirts, jackets, pants, suits, pajamas, etc.
- Accessories and "small" pieces of clothing are **not** acceptable for this record, but are welcome as a donation to the Mission
- Shoes, purses, belts, socks, ties, etc.

Only used clothes are acceptable for this record. New/unused clothing will not count towards the record, but are welcome as a donation to the Mission.

If you have any questions or concerns, or when participants have decided to end the drive, or if the boxes are full and ready for pick-up, contact Chandler Mumolie: chandlerm@rmtrenton.org or (609) 964-0414 x 100.



Get your copies of some flyers that can be used to support this activity:

[A Save the Date flyer for the main event in November](#)

[Handout on what is Socially Responsible Recycling](#)

[Summary of what a Rescue Mission of Trenton Clothing Drive entails](#)

[Map of all sites available for donation drop offs effective October 15, 2015](#)



Future Teachers Teach the Future *through Service & Leadership*



Growing Tomorrow's Teachers...Tomorrow's Leaders!

NJ Future Teachers Making a Difference!

The New Jersey Future Educators Association is committed to developing among its members sound leadership qualities and skills, and a strong commitment to improving their local schools and communities. We invite NJFEA chapters and Tomorrow's Teachers classes to become part of our Future Teachers Making a Difference Initiative. Participating chapters and classes will develop student-driven projects or participate in our state-wide service projects to make a positive impact on their schools and communities. We challenge you to be bold, creative, and effective problem solvers.

Tell us about your plans. What project do you want to implement? Why did you choose this project? Who will benefit from it? How will you implement it? How will you know you have succeeded?

*Schools that submit project proposals by **Friday, December 4, 2015**, will be invited to attend a special awards dinner at TCNJ at the end of this year to showcase their projects. Proposals may be submitted to Mr. Larry Fieber via email to fieber@tcnj.edu or fax to 609-637-5065.*

Ideas for projects:

- ◆ Reading to younger children
- ◆ Tutoring younger children in math
- ◆ Collecting & donating books to schools to enhance literacy
- ◆ Collecting canned food for soup kitchens
- ◆ Clothing drive for homeless shelters
- ◆ Sponsoring special school programs about bullying
- ◆ Putting together resources for your school library about autism
- ◆ Sponsoring school programs about learning disabilities
- ◆ Creating posters & bulletin boards about childhood obesity
- ◆ Assisting teachers with classroom tasks & programs
- ◆ Honoring veterans
- ◆ Sponsoring school programs about physical disabilities
- ◆ Assembling & distributing holiday baskets to families in need
- ◆ Volunteering in a local soup kitchen



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See page 16 of this newsletter for project proposal guidelines.



PROPOSAL GUIDELINES



Title Page

Include the following:

- School name and address
- Title of project and the intended audience (who will benefit from the project)
- Name and e-mail address of each student participant
- Name, and phone number of the service project's NJFEA advisor, alternate designated teacher, or Tomorrow's Teachers course instructor.

Narrative

Provide a brief description of your project that includes the following information and/or answers the following questions:

- A list of the name(s) of project leader(s).
- Why did you choose this project and what are the specific goals for this project?
- Why is this project necessary and appropriate for your school and/or community?
- What is the intended outcome of the project and how will you know if you achieved it?
- Describe the process of completing your project. Consider the following questions:
 - ✓ How will you develop a plan for completing your project?
 - ✓ Do you need specific materials, resources, or volunteers? If so, how will you obtain them?
 - ✓ How will you keep everything and everyone organized and on task to meet the project's goals?
 - ✓ How much time does your group anticipate spending on this project?
- What is your timeline for completion of this project?

IMPORTANT: The proposal must be reviewed and approved by the school's NJFEA advisor, alternate designated teacher, or Tomorrow's Teachers course instructor **before** the proposal may be submitted.

Future teachers can make a difference today!

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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Upcoming 2015 Conferences, Events, & Activities

NJFEA Northern Region Conference, William Paterson University, September 25, 2015

The NJFEA Northern Region Conference will be held on Friday, September 25, 2015, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at William Paterson University. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in nearly 20 breakout sessions covering topics such as: exploring the way that a “learning difference” affect students in the classroom; learning what districts look for when interviewing new teachers; learning what you need to know and be able to do to become a science educator; exploring how picture books can build young children’s interest in math and science; understanding the financial aid process for college; understanding the Common Core Standards and PARCC assessment; showcasing how using multimedia and hands-on tablet-based apps can facilitate learning of science for elementary students, and much more!

NJFEA Chapter Advisors and Tomorrow’s Teachers Instructors Special Meeting, TCNJ, October 3, 2015

Join us for a Special Meeting of NJFEA Advisors and Tomorrow’s Teachers Instructors on Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at The College of New Jersey (School of Education Building, Room 115) so that we can share the benefits of your knowledge and experience with future teachers. You will be helping to pave the way for the future of the NJFEA and for the future careers of New Jersey’s aspiring educators.

To Register: Please email your name, school affiliation, email address, and cell phone number to Mr. Larry Fieber at feiber@tcnj.edu no later than Friday, September 25th. Please put “NJFEA Special Meeting” as the subject line of your email. If you have any questions, please call 609-771-2464.

Annual NJFEA Field Trip to the NJEA Convention, Atlantic City Convention Center, November 6, 2015

The NJFEA and the Center for Future Educators invite high school students who are planning careers in teaching to attend the NJEA Convention on Friday, November 6, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. at the Atlantic City Convention Center. This field trip is a great learning opportunity for New Jersey future teachers. Student NJFEA chapter members will attend break-out sessions, hear the keynote address, visit professional exhibits on the NJEA Convention Floor, and meet their NJFEA state officers. More information, including how to register for the Field Trip, will be coming soon!

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

Welcome Back! Enjoy the New School Year!

2015-16 NJFEA STATE OFFICERS

Katelyn Page, President

Makenzie Kern, Vice President

Joely DeMonte, Secretary

Nicholas Quintero, Northern Region
Representative

Samantha Nielsen, Central Region
Representative

Donald (DJ) Hager, Central/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.tcnj.edu/>

‘Like’ us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/centerforfutureeducators

Join us at:

<https://www.thinkregistration.com/feaaff/nj/>