## A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW JERSEY **FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**



# The Smartboard

"A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart."



Recruiting Today's Students as Tomorrow's Teachers

Winter/Spring 2017

### In this Issue:

NJFEA Programs for 2017—Preview	2
May31 <sup>st</sup> NJFEA Conference— Registration Open	2
Remember Read Across America Day—March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2017	3
Get Writing for these March Essay Contests!	3
Get Ready for the Urban Teacher Academy at TCNJ	4
"Transforming Perceptions of Urban Education"	4
2017 Tomorrow's Teachers Training Sessions	5
NJFEA Officers' Corner	6-7
TED Talks—More Inspiring Videos for Future Teachers!	8
"Why Academic Teaching Doesn't Help Kids"	8
Ethical Dilemma for Thoughts and Discussion	9-10
2017 Statewide Service Project	11
The Value of	12

Membership

Chapters

Ideas for Active

13-14

## 1st NJFEA Conference of 2017—A Great Success!



Thank you to all who made our first NJFEA Conference of 2017 a great success!



Held on Monday, January 9th, at Montclair State University, this first conference drew approximately 450 high school students and their advisors. A full day of special presentations and rich breakout sessions help students to explore teaching as a career.



Our 2016-17 NJFEA State Officers presented to our audience, as well as managed registration. We also welcomed four former NJFEA State Officers at the event: Joely DeMonte, David Eggert, Samantha Nielsen, and Juan Ouvina.



A very special thanks goes to Mr. Sean Spiller, Secretary/Treasurer of the NJEA, for traveling from Trenton to greet our students, advisors, and guests.

See page 2 for upcoming conference dates!

## Take the Lead: Become a 2017-18 NJFEA State Officer!

The New Jersey Future Educators Association is recruiting applicants to become 2017-18 NJFEA State Officers. Serving as a State Officer is an honor and a significant responsibility to help advance the interests of New Jersey high school and middle school students who aspire to become tomorrow's teachers. If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please see the NJFEA Officer Application - 2017-18, which includes a description of each of the officer positions.

Applications are due Friday, April 28, 2017, and the term of service for new officers will be July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Page 2 The Smartboard

## NJFEA Programs for 2017—Preview





March 23, 2017, Urban-Suburban Student Exchange (North Brunswick Township High School and Henry Snyder High School (Jersey City)

May 9, 2017—National Teacher Day

May 31, 2017—NJFEA Conference, Monmouth University

June 1, 2017—Urban Teacher Academy Orientation, The College of New Jersey

July 10-11, 2017 —Tomorrow's Teachers Training, Fairleigh Dickinson University

July 10-20, 2017—Summer Teacher Academy, Fairleigh Dickinson University

July 10-21, 2017–Urban Teacher Academy, Stockton University

July 12-13, 2017 — Tomorrow's Teachers Training, Fairleigh Dickinson University

July 17-28, 2017-Urban Teacher Academy, The College of New Jersey

**Summer 2017 (TBA)** - Rowan University Urban Teacher Academy-Bridgeton Teacher Academy

All events/programs are posted on the Center for Future Educators website under "Mark Your Calendar and under the **Events** pulldown menu on the homepage.

## May 31st NJFEA Conference—Registration Open!



Mark your

calendars!

We are pleased to extend an invitation to students in grades 9-12 who are exploring careers as future teachers to attend the New Jersey Future Educators Association (NJFEA) Conference at Monmouth University, 400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, New Jersey on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. This conference is planned for 300 students.

Online registration is available at <a href="http://www.oksignmeup.com/njfea/monmouth">http://www.oksignmeup.com/njfea/monmouth</a> and is on a first-come-first serve basis. Please see the <a href="conference flyer">conference flyer</a> on the Center for Future Educators website. The flyer includes a summary of the scheduled breakout sessions and program.

Students must be registered and accompanied to this conference by a teacher, counselor, or school administrator. Students may not register themselves. Students will select one workshop for each of two break-out sessions. The first break-out session is from 10:40-11:25 a.m. The second break-out session is from 11:35 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Each high school is invited to bring 15-20 students who are interested in becoming future teachers. There is no charge for attending this conference. A complimentary lunch will be provided. Dress is smart casual.

Conference information and directions to Monmouth University will be sent to chaperones approximately one month in advance of this conference.

Please e-mail Mr. Larry Fieber, Executive Director of the Center for Future Educators at The College of New Jersey and State Director of the New Jersey Future Educators Association at <a href="mailto:fieber@tcnj.edu">fieber@tcnj.edu</a> with any questions.

Page 3 The Smartboard

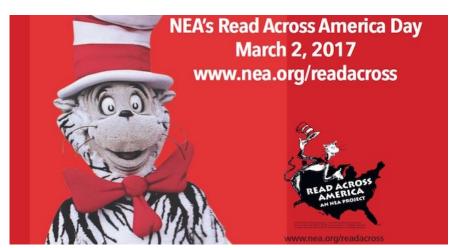
## Remember Read Across America Day—March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017!



The National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America. Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, this year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources. Learn more <a href="here">here</a> about Read Across America.

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child."





## Get Writing for these March Essay Contests!

#### **New Jersey Hall of Fame Essay Contest**



Who belongs in the New Jersey Hall of Fame? The New Jersey Hall of Fame wants your students to participate in the decision-making process. New Jersey public school students are invited to participate in the N.J. Hall of Fame Essay Contest. Students are asked to nominate potential inductees – living or dead – to the New Jersey Hall of Fame. **Deadline is March 15, 2017.** Learn more

## Alzheimer's New Jersey Essay Contest



Did you know that Alzheimer's disease impacts over 500,000 people in New Jersey? That includes individuals who have the disease and family caregivers for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Alzheimer's New Jersey would like to recognize students who are making a difference in the New Jersey fight against Alzheimer's disease. Perhaps you know students that are helping to care for a grandparent or other loved one, or who have organized or participated in an event to raise funds and awareness about Alzheimer's? Maybe they are educating their friends and neighbors about the effect of Alzheimer's on their family, communities and our state? **Deadline is March 31, 2017.** Learn more

Page 4 The Smartboard

## Get Ready for the Urban Teacher Academy at TCNJ!



The College of New Jersey's (TCNJ) Urban Teacher Academy (UTA) is offered to high school juniors who meet rigorous admission criteria and are interested in becoming teachers. Special consideration is given to students interested in teaching in urban schools and/or high shortage subject areas.

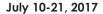


The <u>UTA brochure and application</u> for the 2017 UTA @ TCNJ is available now for the program that will run from **July 17<sup>th</sup> through July 28<sup>th</sup>**. Applications are being accepted through Friday, April 21, 2017. This is a very popular program and spaces fill quickly. Submit your application early! See also our <u>UTA YouTube video</u>.

Also, be sure to check out the Summer/Urban Teacher Academy programs at our partner institutions:

#### July 10-20, 2017

Summer Teacher Academy, Fairleigh Dickinson University <u>Brochure</u>



Urban Teacher Academy, Stockton University

Brochure



#### Summer 2017 (Dates to be announced soon)

Rowan University Urban Teacher Academy -Bridgeton Teacher Academy -Preliminary Flyer

(For more information about this program, please contact Monika Williams Shealey, Ph.D., Dean, College of Education, Rowan University at <a href="mailto:shealey@rowan.edu">shealey@rowan.edu</a>.)

## "Transforming Perceptions of Urban Education..."



The Center for Future Educators and the New Jersey Future Educators Association extend congratulations to the Rowan University Teacher Academy for the recent publication of the article "Transforming Perceptions of Urban Education: Lessons From Rowan University's Urban Teacher Academy" in The Educational Forum.

(Citation: Transforming Perceptions of Urban Education: Lessons From Rowan University's Urban Teacher Academy, Meg White, Corine Meredith Brown, Martha Graham Viator, Laurel L. Byrne, and Lorraine C. Ricchezza, The Educational Forum Vol. 81, Iss. 1, 2017)

The articles abstract reads: "To be an effective urban educator requires teachers to understand the contextual factors of students, the school, and the community, and their cumulative effects on learning. Urban teacher academies support a better understanding of urban classrooms and challenge stereotypes of the urban context. The focus of this study was to compare participants' perceptions of urban settings before and after 2 weeks spent at an urban teacher academy for high school students."

Check out options <u>here</u> for accessing the full article.

Page 5 The Smartboard

## 2017 Tomorrow's Teachers Training Sessions



The Center for Future Educators at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), The New Jersey Education Association, and the New Jersey Department of Education are pleased to invite high school teachers to participate in a *Tomorrow's Teachers* instructor training opportunity. *Tomorrow's Teachers*, an elective course for high school juniors and seniors who aspire to become teachers, was developed by the

Center for Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) in South Carolina. Thirty-eight states are currently using the *Experiencing Education* course curriculum.





Please see the <u>2017 Tomorrow's Teachers Invitation Letter and Registration Form</u> for complete information. During July's trainings, we will introduce the 11th edition of *Experiencing Education*.

Four New Jersey universities offer college credits to high school students who successfully complete the *Tomorrow's Teachers* course elective: Fairleigh Dickinson University, Rider University, Richard Stockton University, and Kean University (beginning fall 2017).

Instructors will select <u>one</u> of two sites (listed below) for this two-day training. Up to <u>35</u> high school instructors can be accommodated at each site to participate. Training will be conducted by a certified CERRA instructor with the support of a highly experienced New Jersey Tomorrow's Teacher instructor.



#### Fairleigh Dickinson University (Teaneck)

Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> (9:30 a.m-4:30 p.m.) Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> (9:00 a.m-4:00 p.m.

## OR

#### Rider University (Lawrenceville)

Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> (9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> (9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)



The trainings are open to all New Jersey public high schools. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces fill-up quickly, so **please register early**.

The cost for the **Experiencing Education 11th edition course curriculum** is **\$560** to be paid by each participating high school. Invoices for this curriculum will be sent directly to each school district upon acceptance of the course instructor. There are no training fees associated with the sessions. Please note that the **Experiencing Education** curriculum may not be implemented at a high school unless training has been completed by certified CERRA a course instructor(s).



If you would like to participate in the **Tomorrow's Teachers** training, please complete the registration form and fax it to Larry Fieber, Executive Director, Center for Future Educators at The College of New Jersey, by <u>Friday</u>, <u>May 12<sup>th</sup></u>. The fax number is 609-637-5065.

Page 6 The Smartboard

## NJFEA Officers' Corner



Who has most influenced you to become an educator, and how did they influence you?

What one video about inspirational/effective teaching would you recommend to other future teachers?



Clifford Kyei: We all know that sometimes we have someone who inspires us in our daily lives, but for me the person who has influenced me to become an educator is Mrs. Davis Parks, who is my Spanish teacher and my advisor for NJFEA school chapter. She influences me to become an educator everyday based on her life, and style of teaching. She comes in everyday with a positive attitude ready to teach no matter what she is going through. Mrs. Davis Parks shows us that teaching is not just a job to her — she proves to us everyday that it's something she loves. She always asks her students how they are doing, and connects with her students personally to find out what's going on in their lives before she even begins teaching a Spanish lesson. Mrs. Davis parks goes beyond teaching the subject of Spanish, she teaches her students about life in general.

TED Talks Video Recommendation: <u>Teach Teachers How to Create Magic</u>.



Julia Melao: Over the years, I have been blessed with many wonderful teachers who have all put a great amount of effort into ensuring that my education is the best it can be. And, because I have had quite a few excellent teachers, I don't think I would be able to pinpoint one who has influenced me the most. Each of them has had his/her part in shaping me into who I am, and what my future will be in education. Some of my teachers have challenged my intellect quite a bit with their difficult subjects. Others have taught me to pay attention to the world around me and to speak up if I don't like what's going on. And some have been there to pick me up when I'm feeling down. I think that the accumulated impact of these teachers has pushed me towards education because I want to be like all of them. I want to be able to challenge kids, and show them the world around them, but also be there when their worlds seem to be a heavy weight on their shoulders. My teachers have influenced my life greatly, and I want to be able to influence others' lives in return.

YouTube Video Recommendation: How a Teacher Inspires a Student's Soul.



**Shannon Brogan:** I come from a family of teachers. I always knew I wanted to be an educator, but it was a connection with my Tomorrow's Teachers' instructor and FEA club advisor that sparked my interest. Ms. Francis cares about her students and always gives them good advice. She challenged me to work harder in order to reach my highest potential. She taught me that it takes hard work and a positive attitude to become an effective teacher. Her passion and commitment for teaching inspires me everyday. Ms. Francis is a firm believer in reaching her students in order to make an important impact in their lives. Her motto is "You gotta reach 'em to teach 'em." This is important as an educator to reach your students in order to engage them, which has influenced my own philosophy about teaching.

Classroom Close Up Video Recommendation: <u>Show 6 Season 2016-17</u>.

Continued on page 7.

Page 7 The Smartboard

## NJFEA Officers' Corner

Continued from page 6.



**Emily Normand:** From a very young age, my mom has inspired me to become an educator. Her love for children and passion to make a difference connected with me. She was a professor and taught for many years, shaping the minds of future adults. Currently, and for the past 10 years, my mom has also been a member of my town's board of education. She fights for the kids in our district and always wants what is best for them. This dedication has had an impact on me and my desire to teach. My mom's commitment to make a difference and inspire others has left a positive mark on me. I now want to follow in her footsteps and make her proud through my own career as an educator.

YouTube Video Recommendation: TEACH: Inspiration / TakePart



**Irvic Gondor:** The teachers who most influenced me to become an educator were my math teacher, history teacher, and physics teacher. The most noticeable quality of my math teacher was her kindhearted ways towards every student. One dominant characteristic of my history teacher was his passion for his subject area, which I believe is important for a teacher. Lastly, I like my physics teacher's calm demeanor and laid back style. I want to capture each of these qualities in my own teaching style because I can see the positive impact of those qualities on the students in each of their classrooms.

TED Talks Video Recommendation: <u>Dan Meyer—Exploring the Way we Teach Teachers to Teach Kids</u>.



Naomi Campbell: Teachers not only provide students with information to succeed inside of the classroom, but with awareness and an abundance of knowledge to succeed outside of the classroom as well. My Spanish teacher and club adviser, Mrs. Eldredge, has inspired me on many occasions. From being in a variety of her after-school clubs that promoted and encouraged students to consider a career in education, to teaching me a different language and culture in a creative manner, has helped immensely to prepare me for my future in a variety of ways. Her willingness, love for teaching, and dedication towards student success, has inspired me to become a teacher. Due to her guidance and mentorship, I have been able to soar to new heights in both aspects of social and academic engagements. It is through the great opportunities and lessons she has given me, that I have been inspired to give back to the world of education, and make a difference in the lives students, like she has so positively done for me.

YouTube Video Recommendation: What Happened When Teachers Found Out How Students Felt About Them



Page 8 The Smartboard

## TED Talks—More Inspiring Videos for Future Teachers!

What teachers make: Ever heard the phrase "Those who can't do, teach"? At the Bowery Poetry Club, slam poet Taylor Mali begs to differ, and delivers a powerful, 3-minute response on behalf of educators everywhere.



Hey science teachers—make it fun: High school science teacher Tyler DeWitt was ecstatic about his new lesson plan on bacteria (how cool!) — and devastated when his students hated it. The problem was the textbook: it was impossible to understand. He delivers a rousing call for science teachers to ditch the jargon and extreme precision, and instead make science sing through stories and demonstrations.

My story, from gangland daughter to star teacher: Pearl Arredondo grew up in East Los Angeles, the daughter of a high-ranking gang member who was in and out of jail. Many teachers wrote her off as having a problem with authority. Now a teacher herself, she's creating a different kind of school and telling students her story so that they know it's okay if sometimes homework isn't the first thing on their minds.

## "Why Academic Teaching Doesn't Help Kids..."

In the article "Why Academic Teaching Doesn't Help Kids Excel in Life, author and educator Shelley Wright explores what schools may be missing with a sometimes singular focus on academics. Below is an excerpt from Wright's article.

I am not a teacher but an awakener.

-Robert Frost

I've come to realize that being "academic" doesn't tell you much about yourself. It tells you you're good at school, which is fine if you plan to spend your life in academia, but very few of our students do. It doesn't indicate whether or not you'll be successful in your marriage, raising your kids, managing your money, or giving back to your community. All things that matter much more than being good at school.

School should be a place where kids can discover what they love. They should be able to ask the questions that matter to them and pursue the answers. They should discover what they are passionate about, what truly sets their hearts and souls on fire. They should discover they can make a difference now. Above all, they should leave school knowing what they are good at.



Today, I think most kids graduate only knowing if they're good at school or not. Often our students have many talents; they just don't fit in our current curriculum because their talents are likely not considered "real knowledge." And what is that? In the Biology curriculum that I've taught for the past several years, one of the objectives that my students need to know is earthworm reproduction. Really? Out of all the things we could be teaching a 17-year-old about biology, someone (a whole panel of someones, we can guess) decided earthworm reproduction was essential?

Read the full article here.

Page 9 The Smartboard

## Ethical Dilemma for Thoughts and Discussion

#### THE DILEMMA



At age 22, Selena Alonzo is excited to begin her teaching career at Thurgood Marshall Middle School — the school she graduated from just over four years ago. It feels like just yesterday she was walking across the stage at high school graduation. Now here she is, already a college graduate and heading back to her hometown to teach 8th grade math.

Outstanding Excellent
Very Good
Satisfactory

This year, Ms. Alonzo's school district is implementing new College and Career Ready

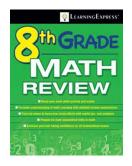
Standards for all students. The expectations for what students need to know and be able

to do has gone way up from even just a few years are when she was a student

to do has gone way up from even just a few years ago when she was a student.

The new College and Career Ready Standards are controversial even amongst the faculty. Some teachers say the higher standards will help more students understand what it takes to be ready for the real world. Others say the standards are way too hard and that more students will fail. Others fall somewhere in the middle — they think the standards are a good idea but they want more support and time so that the standards can be implemented thoughtfully.

Many politicians and media personalities have weighed in on the College and Career Ready Standards, and some have encouraged people to view the standards as evil. A handful of teachers are openly talking about quitting because the transition to new standards has been so challenging, and now they need to write all new unit and lesson plans to align to the higher expectations in the standards.



Below Average

Ms. Alonzo doesn't feel like she knows enough to take any sides in the debate — she's just planning to implement the 8th grade math curriculum that the district has chosen, and it aligns to the College and Career Ready Standards that her state has adopted. She has reviewed the curriculum, and it looks doable to her. The expectations are definitely high, but she feels like she can help the students reach them.

The first few weeks of school go relatively well. Ms. Alonzo is teaching 5 different classes of middle school students — a total of 150 students — and she is definitely putting to use all of the skills she learned in her teacher preparation program and her experience in Educators Rising as a high school student. By the end of September, she feels like she is really getting into a rhythm.



Then it felt like everything changed. October 1 was Back to School Night, when family members and caretakers of students are invited to meet the teachers. During Ms. Alonzo's Back to School Night presentation, one parent named James Marshall spoke up, "I object to the new standards. This is a federal brainwashing job. I don't pay taxes so you can brainwash my kid."

Continued on page 10.

Page 10 The Smartboard

## Ethical Dilemma for Thoughts and Discussion

Continued from page 9.

Ms. Alonzo wasn't quite sure how to respond, and she said she'd be happy to speak with the parent individually. The parent left before they could have that conversation, though. However, a week later the parent sent Ms. Alonzo an email and copied the principal on it:



Dear Ms. Alonzo,

Many parents and I object in the strongest possible way to the new curriculum. This is a federal program to brainwash our children. We have signed this message together. Our children will protest this tyranny until they are able to learn with a fair curriculum. Our children are hereby opting out of any state tests that have anything to do with the new standards.



The email was signed by 14 parents.

A flood of concerns came to Ms. Alonzo's mind. One of them is that a small portion of her professional evaluation depends on her students' state assessment scores.

Ms. Alonzo wants to uphold her professional responsibilities to her students, her employer, and to continue to grow as an educator who aims to have a long, successful career in the classroom. Above all, she wants her students at Thurgood Marshall Middle School to have a successful year in math class. What steps should she take?



### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER DURING YOUR DEBATE OF THE DILEMMA:

- 1. What is the role of standards for learning in the public education system?
- 2. What responsibility do teachers have to address parents' concerns about school policy or practices?
- 3. How should teachers engage with colleagues and administrators on school-related topics or issues that are controversial in the community?

Source: 2017 Educators Rising National Competition



The New Jersey Future Educators Association is a supporter of national future educators organization, Educators Rising. Membership in Educators Rising is free of charge for <u>teachers/administrators</u> and <u>students</u>.



## 2017 Statewide Service Project!





We invite our NJFEA chapters to collect and donate new or slightly used children's books to enhance literacy in their local elementary schools. We especially encourage donating books to children at low-income New Jersey schools to help prevent a summer slide in reading.

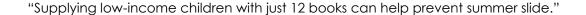
**Step 1**: Contact an elementary school that is near your NJFEA chapter's high school and that is in need of children's books. Ask if they will accept book donations.

**Step 2**: Collect children's books throughout the spring (Monday, January 2nd through Thursday, June 1st in your school and community.

**Step 3**: Count how many books you collected and report the number and the name of the school to which your NJFEA chapter will donate the books.

**Step 4**: Donate the books to the school of your choosing!

Please set a high goal for your club and collect as many books as possible because the more today's children read the better they will be in the future!





## ★Future Teachers Make a Difference Today! ★



NJFEA Chapters undertaking service projects in 2016-17 are asked to submit news of their accomplishments to Mr. Larry Fieber, State Director, New Jersey Future Educators Association, at <a href="mailto:fieber@tcni.edu">fieber@tcni.edu</a>.

NJFEA chapter service project news will be showcased on the Center for Future Educators/NJFEA website and Facebook page.



# The Value of Membership





New Jersey Future Educators Association

Membership

Matters!

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:

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

#### **♦** Free Resources, including:

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

## ♦ Eligibility for:

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

#### ♦ Opportunities to:

- o Network Statewide with other NJFEA Chapters and Individual Members
- o 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)
- o Participate in Urban-Suburban Student High School Exchanges
- o Participate in Statewide Service Projects
- o 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 — June30th. 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

Center for Future Educators/ NJFEA The College of New Jersey 2000 Pennington Rd., PO Box 7718 Ewing, NJ 08628-0718

> Phone: 609-771-2464 Fax: 609-637-5065 E-mail: fieber@tcnj.edu



## **Ideas for Active Chapters**

#### **Teacher Appreciation Projects**

- Celebrate the annual Teacher Appreciate Week
- Promote teaching and teachers on a special NJFEA bulletin board
- Host a special event (e.g., breakfast)
- Host a 'exemplary teacher contest'
- Write letters and cards to recognize and celebrate teachers who make a difference
- Provide general assistance in classroom

#### School-Based/Chapter Projects

- Tutoring (peer and elementary)
- Provide teacher aide service
- Host Teacher Shadow Days
- Attend state and regional NJFEA conferences
- Schedule student exchanges with neighboring chapters to share ideas and network with NJFEA peers
- Participate in Read Across America
- Arrange a meeting with your superintendent and principal to learn about their jobs
- Host education forums (invite speakers to chapter meetings: student teachers, State Teacher of the Year, local school superintendent and board members, local chapter president, etc.)

#### **Community Projects**

- Participate in the NJFEA annual statewide service project
- Book drive for local library or local elementary schools
- Provide service for the home-bound (yard raking, grocery shopping, etc.)
- Food or clothing drives for local shelters
- Adopt-a-family at the holidays
- Volunteer at the Special Olympics
- Meet with PTA/PTO groups to learn about the importance of community involvement
- Contact state and local agencies for suggestions for helping those in need

#### **Chapter Promotion**

- Develop and keep a chapter website to present at PTA meetings and other events
- Start a NJFEA chapter Facebook page
- Utilize school newspaper, morning announcements, etc.
- Host poster campaigns throughout the year
- Take a group picture for the school yearbook
- Create a NJFEA float for homecoming, parades, etc.
- Write articles about your NJFEA chapter for the school newspaper
- 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
- Hold a garage sale, car wash, bake sale, etc.
- Carnation/candy-gram sales (Valentine's Day)
- Partner with local businesses

Note: Always obtain approval from school administration for fundraisers.









Phone: 609-771-2464 Fax: 609-637-5065 E-mail: fieber@tcnj.edu

## **Topics for Chapter Meetings**

## **Suggested Topics for Chapter Meetings**

- Local school board meeting issues/topics
- Teaching multiple intelligences
- Teaching STEM and STEAM
- The impact of gangs/violence on schools and communities
- How counselors can help students find their dreams
- Using smartboards for instructional excellence
- Where 21st century science teaching is going
- Autism: what future teachers need to know
- Tips for applying to college
- Tips for financing (affording) a college education
- What's special about teaching special education classroom
- Teaching to the heart of the child
- Sticks and stones: stop bullying
- LGBTQ topics
- What's new and exciting in early childhood education
- Teaching in urban schools: the challenges and rewards
- What it takes to become an effective principal
- What makes an excellent NJFEA chapter
- Teaching elementary school
- Teaching students with disabilities (deaf/hearing impaired, blind/sight impaired)
- Teaching linguistically and culturally diverse learners
- Distinctions between rich and poor/socioeconomic distinctions
- The needs of gifted and talented students
- Classroom management: keeping it running smoothly
- On the path to becoming a teacher: what to expect in college
- Standardized testing: does it help or hurt?
- The Common Core Curriculum: does one size fit all?





See these websites for other important education topics for teachers — and *aspiring future educators*:

http://www.weareteachers.com/hot-topics
http://www.teachhub.com/news/hot-topics
http://www.teachersfirst.com/must-knows.cfm
http://www.education.com/topic/current-education-issues/
http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/education\_articles/hot\_topics\_education.php



## NEW JERSEY FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Laurence R. Fieber, Executive Director Center for Future Educators The College of New Jersey School of Education, 202D 2000 Pennington Road P.O. Box 7718 Ewing, NJ 08628-0718

> Phone: 609-771-2464 Fax: 609-637-5065 E-mail: fieber@tcnj.edu

## Recruiting Today's Students as Tomorrow's Teachers

The Center for Future Educators (CFE) at The College of New Jersey was established in 2010 to inspire, encourage, and recruit high school and middle school students who are considering teaching as a future career. The CFE especially seeks future educators interested in teaching in high poverty and hard-to-staff schools and/or high shortage subject areas such as math, science, special education, world languages, technology, bilingual and ESL. The CFE works collaboratively with New Jersey's high schools and middle schools, colleges and universities, corporate, governmental, and community agencies to develop an exemplary model of future teacher recruitment.

The CFE also hosts the New Jersey Future Educators Association. Beginning on July 1st, the NJFEA became an independent organization that continues to be funded by the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). The NJFEA remains in association with Educators Rising (formerly, FEA), our new national network for future teachers.

In addition to supporting local chapter activities, the NJFEA sponsors a variety of statewide events including annual regional conferences for high school and middle school students who aspire to become future teachers, as well as leadership and service project programs and activities. Future teachers and their NJFEA advisers from more than 75 high schools register for these events annually.

Other statewide and regional NJFEA programs for high school and middle school students, student leadership trainings, and state and local service projects are sponsored each year.

The CFE and NJFEA are funded by the New Jersey Education Association.

Visit us: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/centerforfutureeducators">www.tcnj.edu/futureeducators</a> Like us: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/centerforfutureeducators">http://www.facebook.com/centerforfutureeducators</a> Follow us: <a href="https://www.thinkregistration.com/feaaff/nj/">https://www.thinkregistration.com/feaaff/nj/</a> Join us: <a href="https://www.thinkregistration.com/feaaff/nj/">https://www.thinkregistration.com/feaaff/nj/</a>









## Recruiting Today's Students as Tomorrow's Teachers!

#### We Want to Hear from YOU!

The Smartboard newsletter is one of many ways that we seek to get important information to NJFEA chapter members, NJFEA advisors, Tomorrow's Teachers course students and instructors, and all high school and middle school students across New Jersey who aspire to become tomorrow's teachers — tomorrow's leaders. This newsletter is about you and for you. So, we invite you to contact us and let us know what you would like to see in YOUR newsletter. What is important to you? What do you need to know more about as you explore teaching as a future career? What do you want to know, as a NJFEA advisor, about starting and running a local chapter? Please email Mr. Larry Fieber at fieber@tcnj.edu with your ideas. We want to hear from you!





Mr. Laurence R. Fieber Executive Director, Center for Future Educators at TCNJ State Director, New Jersey Future Educators Association