

November 2021

Tomorrow and Today, NJFEA



From the Executive Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

The leaves are vibrant shades of red and yellow and before we know it Thanksgiving will be here and gone. While it has been great to see everyone in person again, there is no doubt that we are still in the midst of a pandemic and operating with restrictions. At the CFE, we have been busy planning for the upcoming year with the hope of in-person events in the spring. In the meantime, we have been running our virtual Speaker Series, visiting with current chapters, and establishing partnerships with districts who want to start new chapters. We will continue to offer some virtual programming even when the pandemic ends to ensure that all of our members have equitable access to the wealth of knowledge and experience our guests bring. As a step towards getting back to in-person events, the NJEA Convention held a hybrid event this year. While we were not able to have students attend this year's convention due to restrictions, the CFE did have a booth in the exhibit hall to talk with educators about our programs. It was great to connect with so many people and for those that signed up for access to the virtual keynotes, the speakers were fabulous!

On January 14, 2022, CFE will host its first ever NJ Educator Summit at The College of New Jersey. Faculty and staff from all levels of teacher preparation will gather to learn from each other and work together to build a stronger system of recruitment and training for the next generation of educators. The event's keynote speaker will be Sarah Brown



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From the Executive Director's Desk (cont.)

Wessling, the 2010 National Teacher of the Year, and former content contributor to the Teaching Channel. There's no cost for attendees and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration opens the week of November 9th (look out for our email or a website update) and there is limited space, so we suggest signing up early! Although we love students, this event is a professional development opportunity for faculty and staff members only. Registration is also open for our Tomorrow's Teachers training, which will take place at Rider University June 29–30, 2022. For more information on the training and Tomorrow's Teachers, visit our [program page](#). Lastly, for those of you longing to have future educators connect in person again, we have two conferences scheduled for the spring. The first is on March 16th at Rider University and the second is on May 23rd at Montclair State University. Mark your calendars now!

As we head towards the holidays, the last couple years have reminded us that it is more important than ever to tell those we consider family how much we love and appreciate them. While you are at it, don't forget to thank your favorite educators because it is important for them to realize they make a difference in your lives. Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season.

Yours in learning,

Jeanne DelColle, Ph.D.

Speaker Series

CFE kicked off this year's six-part Speaker Series with NJ State Teachers of the Year Jeanne Muzi (2008–09) and Jennifer Skomial (2018–19), who shared how they prepared for returning to in-person classes this fall. Getting ready to go back to school this year was not a typical

process for anyone. The pandemic disrupted all parts of daily life, and the effects were clearly felt, especially at the end of the 2020–21 school year. "...Teachers were exhausted, administrators were exhausted, kids were exhausted, families were exhausted", said Ms. Muzi, principal at Slackwood Elementary School. Muzi shared her experience of the summer as an administrator, which consisted of planning with her team for the next school year and tackling the new logistical "what-ifs". Not only did physical health and safety need to be accounted for, but also the emotional and mental wellbeing of the students. "These kids have not been in our classrooms, some of them for over a year...they need to feel excited again about being in school", said Ms. Skomial, as she recounted

Jennifer Skomial



Jeanne Muzi

Speaker Series (cont.)

the community-building activities that Morris County School of Technology implemented to welcome back students, in place of curriculum reviews. Ms. Muzi recalled the same focus on community at the professional development days that start off the school year, where schedules were set aside to allow educators to get reacquainted with each other and their environments. “I’ll always remember that [the 2021–22 year] opened with *time*, which is the most precious commodity to a teacher in the opening days of any school year.” To hear more, check out the recorded session on the [CFE website](#).

Jeanne DelColle



Kimberly Dickstein Hughes



Joseph Martinelli



Suzanne McCotter



Danielle Epps



Our October event featured college and university deans and directors, who started off the session by giving the audience some background on their roles. Deans and directors are responsible for a variety of people and activities. “There are lots of things that fall underneath the umbrella of being a dean. It’s kind of like being the principal of a large school”, shared Dr. Suzanne McCotter, dean of The College of New Jersey. Ms. Danielle Epps of Montclair State University added that her director position means “...you’re doing everything from presenting to students at an open house, and talking to parents and families, and getting them excited about your institution, but you’re also getting the opportunity to collaborate and affect change...” Each speaker presented an overview of their institution and what it’s like to be an education major in general. Some of the most exciting experiences are the classroom clinicals and student teaching, but they can also be challenging for students. “Don’t be afraid to fail”, advised Seton Hall University’s dean, Dr. Joseph Martinelli. “*Everyone* makes mistakes...that’s how you get better...” What can you do now to get ready for college and entering new situations and environments? What do educator preparation programs do to help support their students during their academic careers? Find out by watching the [full recording here](#).



Mark Your Calendars: Our next guest is 2021–22 NJ State Teacher of the Year

Theresa Maughan! Make sure to join us on December 15th at 3:30 pm.

Student Leadership Team

CFE is excited to introduce our state student leadership team for the 2021–22 school year!

PRESIDENT

Angelina Maffei

*Middle Township High School
Senior*

Favorite...

Food: Mac and cheese

TV show: Atypical

Movie: Five Feet Apart

Book: And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Ideal travel destination: Italy

“Shoot for the moon, even if you miss you’ll land amongst the stars.”

—Norman Vincent Peale



VICE PRESIDENT

Brendhaly Ciriaco-Marcelino

*Passaic County Technical Institute
Senior*

Favorite...

Food: Chicken shawarma

TV show: How I Met Your Mother

Anime: The Disastrous Life of Saiki K.

Ideal travel destination: Brazil

“Enjoy the little things in life because one day you’ll look back and realize they were the big things.”

—Kurt Vonnegut



SECRETARY

Gloria Lucas Lopez

*North Brunswick Township High School
Senior*

Favorite...

Food: Lasagna

Movie: The Fast and the Furious franchise

Book: Kindred by Octavia E. Butler

Ideal travel destination: England

“Failure is success if we learn from it.”

—Malcolm Forbes



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Olivia Gray

*Passaic County Technical Institute
Junior*

Favorite...

Food: Krispy Kreme glazed donuts

TV show: Selling Sunset

Ideal travel destination: North Carolina to visit family



“Love is what you do in spite of what you feel.”

—John Gray

CFE AMBASSADOR

Amaya Holon

*Sayreville War Memorial High School
Senior*

Favorite...

Food: any type of Mexican food

TV show: Grey's Anatomy



Ideal travel destination: Italy

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.”

—Helen Keller

Student Leadership Team (cont.)

Q

If you could be taught a subject or skill by anyone, past or present, who would it be?

A

ANGELINA: a new cello technique by Yo-Yo Ma

BRENDHALY: the development of human relationships by Fred Rogers

GLORIA: the skill of engaging readers like J.K. Rowling does in her books

OLIVIA: an English or a language arts class by Oprah or Malcolm X

AMAYA: an English lesson by Helen Keller

Student Leadership Training

On Saturday, November 6th, CFE's state student leaders met each other for the first time on TCNJ's campus for their training and orientation. Throughout the day, the students participated in team-building exercises and discussions on leadership styles and practices, which were led by three facilitators from TCNJ's Leadership Development Program (LDP). "The floor is lava activity helped us unite and communicate as a group", said Gloria. "Although we were unfamiliar with one another, we worked through the activities with ease because of our ability to collaborate and listen to everyone's ideas and thoughts." Brendhaly agreed, adding, "though we began the day as strangers and only [sparked] a connection through our interests in the education field, we left with a strong foundation of teamwork and...a greater comfortability..."

The days before the training, the student leaders watched the livestreams of the keynote speeches from the NJEA Convention. They liked what the speakers had to share and saw the lessons and advice in their speeches as a great support to their own driving purposes to succeed as future educators. The officers were able to tie what they learned from Bill Nye, Henry Louis Gates, Sonia Manzano, and Eric Liu to LDP's training activities, which also included an exploration of core values. "It was amazing to be in a room filled with students like me who had similar career interests", Angelina reflected. "When discussing our core values, it became evident how closely we related to each other."



Student Leadership Team (cont.)

"I loved engaging with TCNJ's [LDP members] and being a part of their growth as future educators...I got to learn a lot about the values of the other officers and the experiences that support why they hold onto those values as closely as they do", shared Olivia. "I started off the day afraid because I was unfamiliar with [the other] officers and what I would contribute to the group. I walked into the room with strangers and walked out with new friends and newfound trust with those individuals through the fun activities we did within the time we were there", said Amaya. The officers enjoyed the opportunity to see new CFE students in person after almost two years of separation and look forward to the community being face-to-face again. The team is excited to represent their peers and support the NJFEA chapters and Tomorrow's Teachers classes around the state this school year!



Chapter Highlights

Take a look at what our officers' local chapters are up to!

Middle Township High School Angelina Maffei

I'm currently the vice president of the NJFEA chapter at Middle Township and I've been part of the chapter for three years. Our chapter tends to be a smaller group, ranging from 7–20 members each year (this year, we have eight). Each week, we hold a meeting to discuss important upcoming events, activities, and members' aspirations as future educators. This year, we plan to connect our members with the community and other schools. One of the events we'll be continuing is our speaker series, where we invite teachers from the community to talk about their different specialties and subject areas. This has helped connect students with teachers

they would not have had in their school career and has given them a unique look behind the scenes. Middle Township has also allowed the seniors who participate in the early college program and students who leave for half the day to go into classrooms where they can gain real-life experience. One of the students, who plans on becoming a music director, has been able to conduct the middle school band. I've been able to go to the school district's elementary school to volunteer as an aid in both general and special education classrooms each week. These opportunities have helped us become more prepared and encouraged us to pursue our career interests. Our chapter has many things planned, and we can't wait to get started!

Chapter Highlights (cont.)

North Brunswick Township High School Gloria Lucas Lopez

In the chapter at my school, which is also a Tomorrow's Teachers course, my classmates and I work together to create a welcoming environment for all. Although we're only three students, we're still able to carry out activities and projects that are intended for a full class. The small class size gives us the advantage of engaging in deeper conversations and expressing our ideas and thoughts on the topics introduced. It's important to our teacher that we're well-informed on the meaning of being an educator and the purpose the role serves. We also work to promote our class by attending school events and writing our monthly blog posts (which cover many different topics). Through projects that include school comparisons and the multiple intelligences theory, we have enhanced our knowledge about how students

learn, the impact that their environments have on their learning, and the way we present our materials to them. This is necessary to look into because not all students are the same. Everyone learns in various ways and it's important to know how educators can use their power to help students in the best way possible. Our goal later in this course is to head out to other schools to observe teachers and experience firsthand what it means to be one. To us, it means much more than a person who teaches, it's someone who inspires and advocates for their students.



Sayreville War Memorial High School Amaya Holon

I have been a part of the New Jersey Future Educators Association at my school since I was a freshman. At my school, the chapter is run as the Tomorrow's Teachers course, and the class has four students this year. The classes are geared toward learning what will be expected as a future educator. We learn a lot about famous educators and tips for us to become better educators. It also includes hands-on training your senior year, where you can not only observe, but also enter a classroom. This year, we have observed many classes and we start our field experience very soon. I think this program is very valuable in helping students figure out if they would like a future career in education because it exposes them to early experiences.



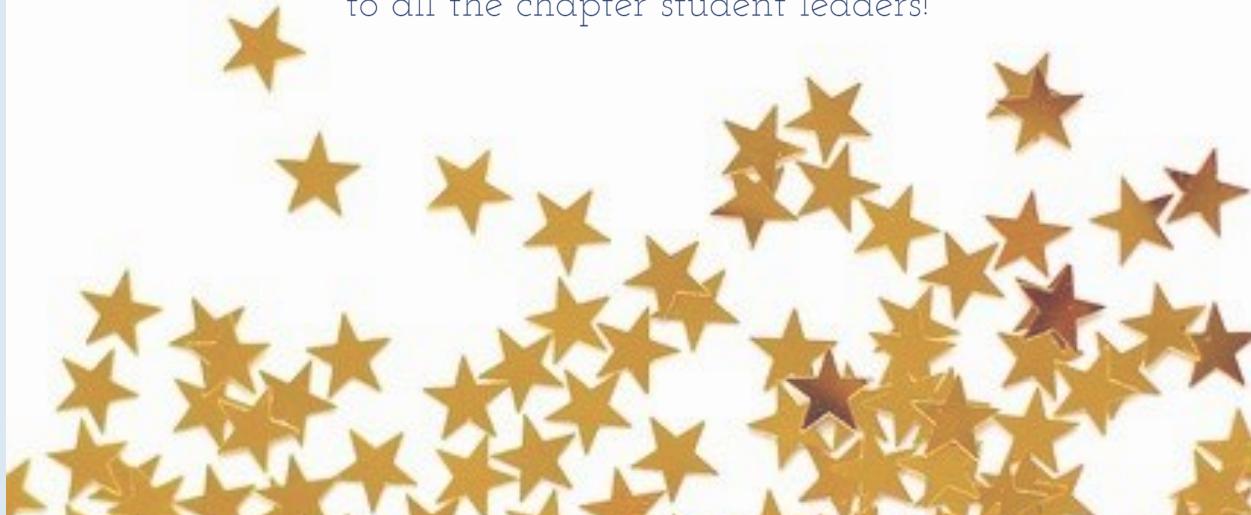
Chapter Highlights (cont.)

Passaic County Technical Institute Brendhaly Ciriaco-Marcelino & Olivia Gray

The Passaic County Technical Institute NJFEA chapter welcomed over fifty new members this year, who are excited to explore the field of teaching. Our chapter has covered various topics since the start of the school year, including how to apply tools and technology that support dual-language learning and the importance of practicing English and Spanish language methods when teaching preschoolers. Our NJFEA chapter is also known to host and participate in events involving children in the local Head Start program. Every year, we hold a Read Across America celebration in our school's black box theatre, where members of the club work together to carry out a live reading and performance of a Dr. Seuss book. Another popular event we participate in is the Week of the Young Child, where many of our members invite children from local preschools to watch performances by our members and participate in other activities with our school's different technical programs. In addition to

these events, our organization hosts school supply drives for those in need, volunteers at local events, and helps members gain experience in the education field. In the 2018–2019 school year, we collaborated with teachers to allow our juniors and seniors the opportunity to teach a grade level in the subject area they're interested in. The following 2019–2020 school year, we expanded our members' knowledge of and views on the human services field by discussing current events like the documentary covering the tragic Gabriel Fernandez case. Though this past school year was vastly different, we still focused on giving members opportunities for growth. Through a partnership with Paterson Public School 12, six students worked in pairs to teach a language arts and computer science lesson to a fourth-grade class. As the year progresses, our chapter hopes to continue guiding our members through the education and human service fields and further developing their love of learning.

Congratulations
to our 2021-22 state student leaders and
to all the chapter student leaders!



Resources

- **Khan Academy Ed Talks:** Kara Bobroff, founder of NACA Inspired Schools Network, shares how Native American heritage can be preserved in schools. Watch the recorded livestream on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).
- **Native American biographies:** Check out this [collection of biographies](#) curated by Dr. Katie Phillips, assistant professor of Native history at Macalester College.
- **Reading list:** The American Indian Library Association provides book suggestions that highlight Native American authors and voices. Check out [this list](#) for middle grade and young adult readers.
- **ACEs event for current educators:** [Register here](#) to participate in an online screening and interactive discussion of the documentary *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope*.

About CFE

The Center for Educators (CFE) was established at The College of New Jersey in January 2010 as a collaboration between the New Jersey Education Association and The College of New Jersey to launch a new vision for statewide leadership in the identification, selection, and grooming of prospective future teachers, and to serve as an exemplary national model of future teacher development and recruitment.

The CFE was established 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 Center believes that New Jersey's students are entitled to have the best, highly trained teachers that reflect the demographics of the state and promote academic progress and social skill development. The CFE works collaboratively with schools, institutions, and agencies across New Jersey to develop exemplary models of future teacher recruitment.



Jeanne DelColle



Wambui Gilbert

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