

# Tomorrow and Today, NJFEA



## From the Executive Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

The days are getting longer and green shoots are starting to emerge from the ground that will soon blossom into the colors of spring. Knowing that we are moving forward gives me a feeling of hope and optimism after a challenging pandemic winter. Here at the Center for Future Educators, we learned to adapt in the face of adversity and continued to bring virtual programming to future educators across the state, including our Speaker Series events that focused on topics such as special education and the importance of representation. We also hosted our first-ever NJ Educator Summit for teachers and advisors of future educators to share best practices and discuss hot topics in education. If you missed any of these events, you can always check out our website at [futureeducators.tcnj.edu](http://futureeducators.tcnj.edu) for event recordings, valuable resources, and upcoming programs.

While we love being able to bring virtual programming to you, we miss seeing all of your smiling faces! Luckily for us, we have our first in-person conferences in *over two years* scheduled for March 16 at Rider University and May 23 at Montclair State University. Our student leadership team is helping us to prepare for these exciting days, and we can't wait to welcome you in person. Registration for the May conference will open in mid-March. While you are also planning ahead, we will soon be releasing



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Executive Director's Desk .....	1
Program Updates ....	2
The Story Corner.....	6
Chapter Highlights ..	8
Resources .....	10



## From the Executive Director's Desk (cont.)

the application for our overnight Future Educators Academy, (July 8–16 at TCNJ). We have a limited number of spots available, so be sure to register early when applications open in early April. Lastly, don't forget to sign up for our annual [Tomorrow's Teachers training](#) (for current educators), which will be held June 29–30 (8:30 am–4:30 pm) at Rider University. As always, please reach out to us with any questions or concerns at [cfe@tcnj.edu](mailto:cfe@tcnj.edu).

Yours in learning,

*Jeanne DelColle, Ph.D.*

---

## Speaker Series

Last December, we got the chance to meet with the 2022 NJ State Teacher of the Year, Theresa Maughan! Ms. Maughan is a social studies teacher at East Orange STEM Academy, and she has been a professional educator for 40 years. During the session, Ms. Maughan provided the audience with a look into her early life and the events that heavily influenced her decision to become an educator. Her family was facing deportation when she was in 7th grade, and her social studies teacher, Ms. Marilyn Roman, began a campaign to help them remain in the country. “And I remembered, when I was a freshman at Rutgers, I—I felt that there was something else that I was meant to do with my life”, said Maughan, reflecting on her initial choice to become an immigration lawyer. She explained how Ms. Roman, along with a history teacher she also admired, “instilled this real interest in research—this realization that things that we’re learning in the classroom could be applied to authentic life experiences.” This new passion, combined with a desire to form connections with students similar to those she shared with her former educators, led Ms. Maughan onto a new path. Watch the full session on our [YouTube channel](#) to learn more about this year’s NJ STOY!



We kicked off the New Year with a session focusing on special education. Our guest was Dr. Danielle Kovach, a third-grade special education teacher at Tulsa Trail Elementary School and adjunct professor at Centenary University. Dr. Kovach began the session by sharing some lessons she picked up along the way. The advice, which included phrases like “every day is another opportunity to screw everything up again”, sounded

## Speaker Series (cont.)

like the opposite at first! However, it became clear that her “un-motivational motivation” was her way of encouraging students to embrace the self-doubt and frustrations that will happen when pursuing something new, like a career in education. Dr. Kovach recounted her first day in a classroom. “I feel like every single step I took, I messed up.” And she continued to make mistakes! Eventually, Dr. Kovach learned that these challenging days were also opportunities to learn and improve. “It took me a long time to realize ‘No, I don’t know it. It’s okay not to know it, but I know that I have resources and tools...that can help me.’” She carries this same mentality into her classroom, ensuring that her students receive the personalized tools and resources they need to succeed. Find out more about Dr. Kovach’s experiences in special education (locally and internationally) by watching the [January event here](#).



During February’s event, our featured speaker, Eric Jones, shared how his experiences with race, representation, and inclusion shaped his teaching journey and how he advocates and creates spaces for those in his union with similar experiences. Mr. Jones is currently a New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) field representative, but he began his education career in the classroom. At the start of the session, Mr. Jones shared a photo with

the audience and reflected back to his senior-year student teaching. “I was the only person of color in that photo....I was the only person of color in the building....And while I enjoyed being there at Orchard Hill, I also felt a sense of loneliness.” It was experiences like these that lead Mr. Jones to create NJEA’s Members-of-Color Network (MOC) in 2019. MOC is an organization that provides educators of color in the union with personal and professional opportunities to connect more closely with each other, connections which Mr. Jones described as “very affirming”. When asked by moderator Kimberly Dickstein Hughes what the session’s title, *Representation Matters*, meant to him, he replied, “everyone deserves the right to be seen, to be heard”. To learn more about Mr. Jones’ journey in education, check out the [full recording here](#).



**Up Next:** Our April 7th event will include guest speaker Gabriel Tanglao, Associate Director of Human & Civil Rights, Equity and Governance at NJEA.

## NJ Educator Summit

On a cold and sunny day in January, the CFE held its first NJ Educator Summit, a conference designed to bring together faculty and staff from all levels of teacher preparation to learn from each other about assessment, curriculum, and recruitment. The event was virtual due to the pandemic, but despite the setting, attendees left the event energized and ready to implement some new ideas. The day started with an inspiring keynote by Sarah Brown Wessling, the 2010 National Teacher of the Year. Ms. Wessling asked participants to share their stories of why they became teachers. Many people spoke of someone who made a difference in their lives and pointed them towards teaching. Ms. Wessling then challenged the audience to pay it forward and find those students with qualities that would make them great educators. The key was that it was not enough to simply tell a student that they would be a great teacher, they needed to understand why.



Sarah Brown Wessling

The keynote was followed by breakout sessions led by P-12 teachers, district administrators, higher education faculty and staff, and representatives from assessment companies. The day ended with a panel discussion moderated by Theresa Maughan (2022 NJ STOY) about recruitment, fieldwork, and dual credit opportunities. The panel was composed of NJFEA advisors and Tomorrow's Teachers instructors, including: Kathy Assini (Delsea Regional HS), Laura Iskowitz (North Brunswick Township HS), Jennifer Skomial (Morris County School of Technology), Diane Wilburn (Atlantic City HS), and Dedra Williams (Atlantic City HS & Stockton University). Feedback from the event was very positive and the CFE looks forward to hosting an in-person summit in the future. If you missed any part of the conference, you can find video links for the keynote, most breakout sessions, and the panel on the event's webpage: [futureeducators.tcnj.edu/initiatives/nj-educator-summit](http://futureeducators.tcnj.edu/initiatives/nj-educator-summit).





CENTER FOR  
FUTURE EDUCATORS AT  
THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

# NEW JERSEY FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION SERVICE PROJECT 2022



The CFE Student Leadership Team is excited to present this year's service project! We know that the pandemic has led to new school rules and restrictions that chapters have to follow, so we decided to offer different levels of activities to make it easier for students statewide to participate!



## Want to be featured?

Have a chapter representative submit details on your group's service project activities (photos are encouraged)! Provide some background on your chapter and feel free to include other activities that your group is up to this school year.

Submissions will be featured in the NJFEA newsletter and/or on CFE's social media. Enter submissions here: [tinyurl.com/2d7s7t7a](https://tinyurl.com/2d7s7t7a).

Deadlines will be set by each chapter's advisor (there is a set deadline for the storytelling section only). Have any questions? Email us at [cfe@tcnj.edu](mailto:cfe@tcnj.edu).

## LEVEL 1



Like share, and create social media content for the LOVE MYSELF campaign, a partnership between BTS and UNICEF to help end violence against children and teens and to promote self-love ([love-myself.org/](http://love-myself.org/)).

#BTSLoveMyself #ENDviolence



Send e-cards or physical cards to a local or larger children's hospital.

Example: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([stjude.org/get-involved/other-ways/online-card-message-patients.html](http://stjude.org/get-involved/other-ways/online-card-message-patients.html)).

## LEVEL 2



Create your own vision/dream board (a collage of pictures that show your interests and motivations). Never made one before? Watch this step-by-step video: [tinyurl.com/57np4ruj](https://tinyurl.com/57np4ruj).

Post your board on your social media and tag CFE. (don't forget to use the hashtags in Level 1).



Record yourself reading a children's book, which will be added to CFE's YouTube channel. Books in all languages and featuring different characters, cultures, and topics are encouraged. Check out the rules & guidelines here: [tinyurl.com/52zvpnzs](https://tinyurl.com/52zvpnzs).

## LEVEL 3



Set up a donation drive hosted by your chapter. This can include craft materials for kids to make their own dream boards and/or copies of the children's book you read for the storytelling video.

Example: Caitlin's Smiles creates care packages from donated items to be sent to children's hospitals ([caitlins-smiles.org/donate/donate-supplies](http://caitlins-smiles.org/donate/donate-supplies)).

## The Story Corner

The Story Corner is a place for our readers to learn more about and identify with the educators in our buildings. This first story segment will highlight experiences from our student leadership team's chapter advisors and class instructors.

### An Interview with Laura Iskowitz

North Brunswick Township High School

Gloria Lucas Lopez

Choosing a career in education, for many, involves a desire to gain more knowledge and to grow one's learning skills. For Ms. Iskowitz, it was more than that. The summer before high school, she was a camp counselor working with children with disabilities. It was there that she realized how much she loved to work with children and to see their excitement after accomplishing a task or learning a new skill. This experience, and the support she had from her parents, motivated her to go into the special education field.

Ms. Iskowitz has been teaching for 27 years now, and what she would like people to know about teaching, but more so special education, is that it's not as easy as people think. It's hard and demanding emotionally, mentally, and physically. There have been times where Ms. Iskowitz has felt like she couldn't get through. Students are facing many challenges and barriers that make it harder for them to learn and harder for adults to reach them, but working to take on those challenges and not giving up on a student is worth it, especially when they remember you years from now.

You never truly finish learning, especially in education, but what helps Ms. Iskowitz become a better teacher is the extra duties she takes on. She chaperones school events and gets involved in many class events and clubs. What has helped her even more than that is her family and pets. Through them, she has learned to take into consideration other people and their feelings, to compromise, and to be patient to better construct relationships with others.

Ms. Iskowitz wishes the very best for her students, and she gave some great advice for all of the aspiring educators out there like me. "Take it slow and take it all in. Get involved in your school and community, be the real you, [and] it's okay to make mistakes, but remember to learn from them. Build positive relationships with students and parents, and know that sometimes diverting from academics to have meaningful teachable moments is okay. You are teaching the future [;] the world is in your hands to make it better."



### An Interview with Kaylee Beck

Middle Township High School

Angelina Maffei

During my interview with Mrs. Beck, she provided insight into why she became a teacher and gave advice for any young student pursuing a career in education. Mrs. Beck never thought she would go into the education field when she was in high school. She believed her future career would be related to criminal justice. When she was a senior, she got the opportunity to go to the police academy, but she realized that it was not what she wanted.

## The Story Corner (cont.)

Mrs. Beck then attended college as a math major and took an education class to fulfill a general requirement, but the course ended up unlocking an interest in teaching. She also met an advisor there who became a great mentor and helped her further develop her passion for teaching.

Mrs. Beck shared that the hardest part of teaching math in high school is that many students ask why they need to learn it and when they will need math in the real world. In response to this, she stated that it's important to teach her students first and content second. She acknowledged that many of her students won't use the Pythagorean theorem or become great mathematicians, but her class will help them become well-rounded individuals. Mrs. Beck also shared that many people, including those in the education field, tell aspiring educators not to pursue a teaching career because the pay isn't that great. Her biggest piece of advice is to remember that it's not about the income, but about the outcome. If your heart is there, don't stray from becoming an educator.

### An Interview with Annemarie Esteves

Passaic County Technical Institute

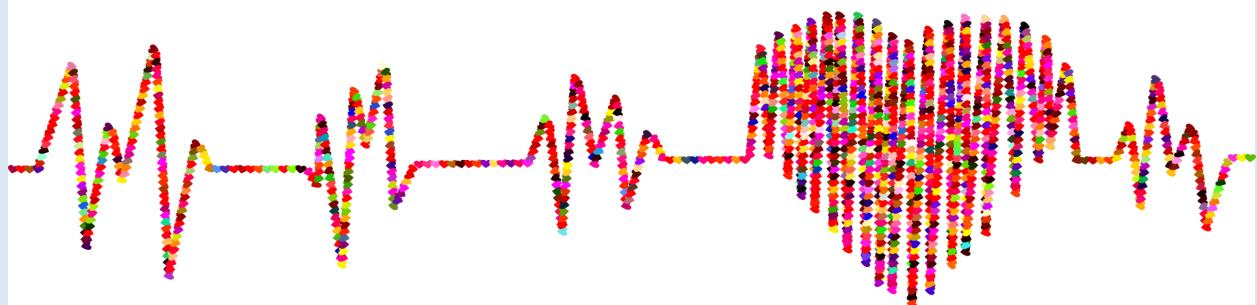
**Olivia Gray**

Ms. Esteves' journey began in the play room of her childhood home, where she would play "teacher" and give homework to friends and family. In high school, a teacher named Mrs.

DeMaio inspired her by showing her the value of working with young children and the dedication it required. This relationship stood the test of time, as Mrs. DeMaio continues to be an advisor there who became a great mentor and important figure and mentor to Ms. Esteves even now.

Ms. Esteves also shared a unique perspective on the difficulties of teaching. She mentioned the negative view that many people have on vocational education programs and the challenge for students in these large programs of finding their place. "This means that more than the average teacher, we in a vocational program have to create a new family for our students." The biggest new challenge to education she finds is students' disconnection because of social media and technology. She hopes for them to have more face-to-face interactions and engage more with the physical world.

One powerful lesson that Mrs. Esteves learned is that "no matter who [you are] or what you do in life you can't stop learning". She enjoys participating in debates because it allows her to hear both sides of an argument and widen her perspective on different concepts and values. "Everyone has a right to their own points of view, and I simply have to accept that, no matter what." Lastly, she shared some great pieces of advice for future educators. "Never give up the fight....Each generation takes on the mantle to continue to show the world why we as [educators] matter....When it comes to your students/classroom always fight for what you know is right and good for them."



## Chapter Highlights

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

Colonia High School's NJFEA chapter/Tomorrow's Teachers class is celebrating its *6-year anniversary*, and the first graduates of the class are currently teaching in local schools! The group is also hosting a book drive for Book Smiles and Monmouth Museum through 5Help club. Follow Colonia's chapter on Instagram [@chstomorrowsteachers](#) for more!



Steinert High School's NJFEA chapter/Tomorrow's Teachers class also hosted their own book drive! They successfully collected over 1000 children's books for Operation Allies Welcome, which were donated to Afghan refugees stationed at Fort McGuire Air Force Base.



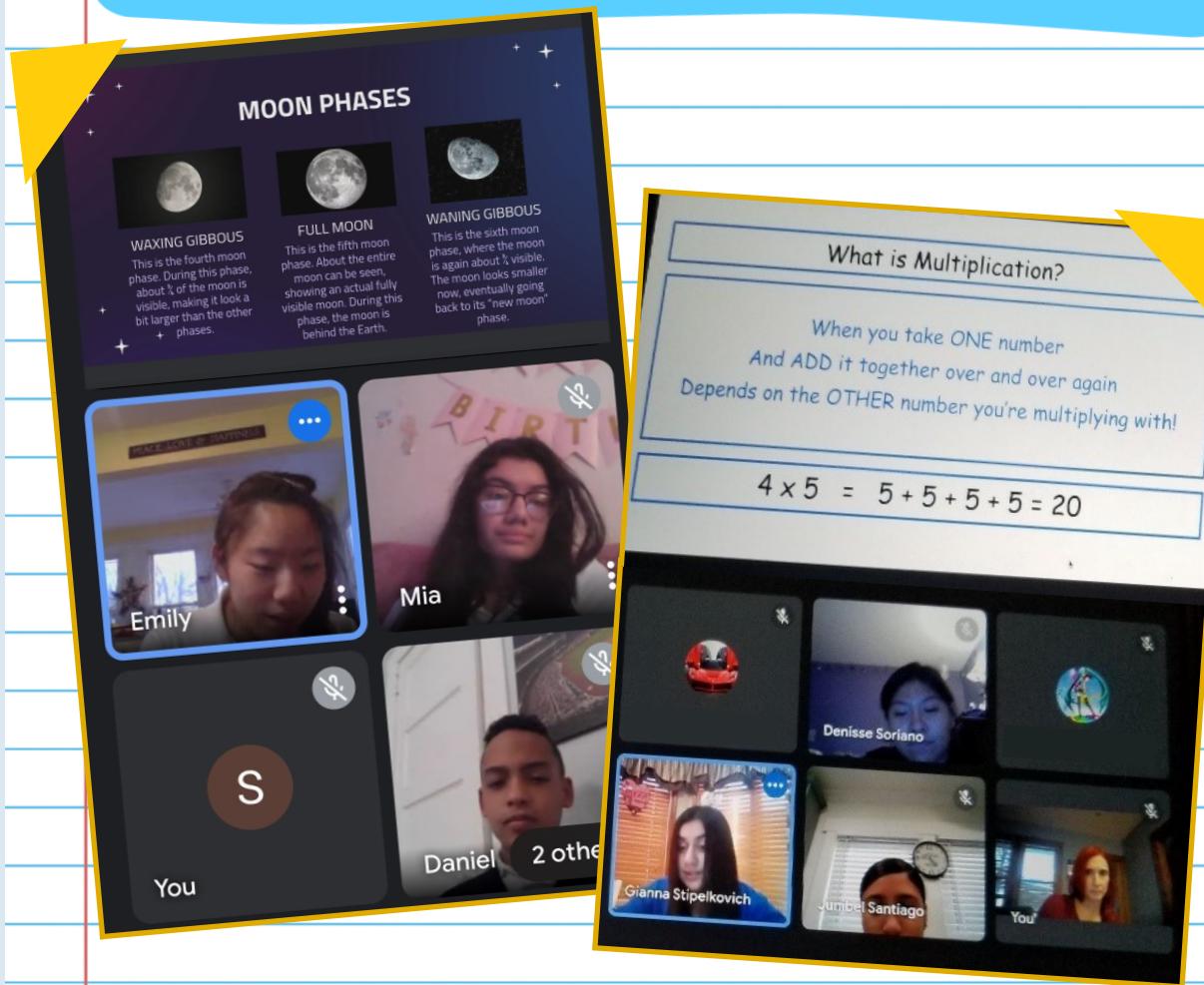
On February 24, Science Park High School's chapter hosted a Black History Month celebration! The event featured drummers, dancers, singers, and presenters. Some of the information shared included Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, facts on notable Black figures, and similarities and differences between African Americans and Afro-Latinos.

Follow [@LauraIskowitz](#) on Twitter for updates on the Tomorrow's Teachers class at North Brunswick Township High School!



## Chapter Highlights (cont.)

Passaic County Technical Institute's chapter members prepared lesson plans for tutoring sessions with a local elementary school. Three groups worked hard to create and present virtual lessons on the phases of the moon, multiplication, and cause and effect. They are in the process of setting up another session and hope to continue this in person in the future!



PCTI's chapter has also partnered with the school's Child Development program to create interactive storytelling videos, which will be uploaded to YouTube for students and teachers to access: [tinyurl.com/2p8w7823](https://tinyurl.com/2p8w7823).



Want to be featured in the NJFEA newsletter and/or on our social media? Submit your chapter highlights to us through this Google Form: [tinyurl.com/2d7s7t7a](https://tinyurl.com/2d7s7t7a).

## Resources

- **Current events:** [This Education Week article](#) provides some resources and tips that teachers have found helpful when discussing Russia's invasion of Ukraine with students.
- **Women in history:** Explore The Smithsonian's [Because of Her Story](#), an online collection of resources and stories highlighting influential women.
- **Book list:** This National Reading Month, explore the [1000 Black Girl Books Resource Guide](#). (scroll to the bottom of the site to find the database.)
- **Khan Academy Ed Talks:** [This session](#) features nonprofit founder and former figure skater, Kristi Yamaguchi, and covers how to inspire and encourage young readers.
- **Members-of-Color Network (MOC):** [Check out MOC](#) for unique opportunities to connect personally and professionally with fellow educators of color.

## 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**

Follow us @cfetcnj



CENTER FOR  
FUTURE EDUCATORS AT  
**THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

**Center for Future Educators**  
The College of New Jersey  
Education Building, 202M  
2000 Pennington Road  
Ewing, NJ 08628-0718

[cfe@tcnj.edu](mailto:cfe@tcnj.edu)

609.771.2394

[futureeducators.tcnj.edu](http://futureeducators.tcnj.edu)