

Tomorrow and Today, NJFEA



From the Executive Director’s Desk

Dear Friends of the CFE,

As we welcome another school year, it feels a little different than the last few years, almost like a fog is starting to lift. I find myself holding my breath, crossing my fingers for good luck, and trying to bodily manifest the hope I feel as we emerge from our pandemic miasma. In an effort to reconnect with our students and advisors. The Center for Future Educators (CFE) tested the waters last spring with a few conferences, and after a successful summer Academy we are pleased to announce that this school year we are continuing our return to in-person programming. We look forward to seeing the bright smiles of our future educators at conferences and beyond.

If you have seen any news about education this fall, then you have probably heard that there is a national teacher shortage. This is not a new phenomenon. In fact, the CFE was founded in 2011 to recruit future educators to work in geographic areas that were facing staffing difficulties, such as urban areas, and in subjects, such as STEM, foreign language, and special education. Thanks to several factors, including the CFE’s collaborative work with colleges and universities throughout New Jersey, we are not facing the critical shortage of some states, but we still have work to do. This includes the addition of ELL/ESL to our most wanted certification areas. Even more important is our goal of ensuring that there are

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- From the Executive Director’s Desk 1
- Program Updates 2
- Resources 8



From the Executive Director's Desk (cont.)

diverse educators in all districts and across subject areas. Representation matters and research shows that all students benefit from having diverse educators. It is time that our educator workforce reflects the demographics of the students in New Jersey.

Today, we know that school is as much about social and emotional development as it is academics. If you were to ask a group of people what the purpose of education is, you would likely get as many different answers as people. Some would say to train people for the workforce, some would say to level the playing field, and yet others would say to teach students reading, writing, and arithmetic. However, even more important than all these is the idea that an effective democracy needs an educated citizenry. To quote the indomitable Marian Wright Edelman, "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

The only way to ensure your voice is heard is to participate in the democratic process, and the place where you learn about the democratic process is school. Some of the best, most effective teachers are the ones who believe that their students are change makers—people who will leave the world a better place than they found it. It is up to us to make sure our students have the academic knowledge and social and emotional understanding to be the change makers of the future because as Elizabeth Warren reminds us, "If you don't have a seat at the table, then you are probably on the menu." The role of education in a democracy is a theme you will see throughout CFE's programming this year.

We have learned some lessons over the last few years about how we can better serve the future educators of New Jersey and we continue to adapt our programs to the changing education landscape. We always welcome input from you about how we can get better. Please feel free to reach out at any time to cfe@tnj.edu to chat, ask questions, or set up a school visit so I can see some of the great work going on in your schools.

Teach on!

Yours in learning,

Jeanne DelColle, Ph.D.



Tomorrow's Teachers Training 2022

This past June, 16 educators from across New Jersey met on TCNJ's campus to participate in the annual Tomorrow's Teachers training. For those not familiar with this program, Tomorrow's Teachers is a course for high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing a career in education. Each year, CFE hosts a training for new and returning teachers to deliver the course in their schools. Over two days, teachers worked with seasoned trainers to explore the curriculum, get familiar with the hands-on activities, and collaborate with their peers. TCNJ's Dean of Education, Dr. Suzanne McCotter, welcomed the teachers and thanked them for their work in supporting aspiring educators. Representatives from partner colleges and universities also made virtual appearances to explain the dual-credit opportunities available to students enrolled in the course. Although online trainings were successfully carried out in 2020 and 2021, the warm energy in the room and eagerness to learn were no match!

Each year, CERRA trainers bring in physical materials and projects for our teachers to use as resources.



Our trainees were hard at work absorbing the new information!



Advisors, if you're interested in bringing the Tomorrow's Teachers course to your school, visit futureeducators.tcnj.edu/tomorrows-teachers to learn more. Please also reach out to Dr. DelColle at delcollj@tcnj.edu for assistance with introducing the program to your school's administrative team. Current Tomorrow's Teachers instructors can collaborate with each other at facebook.com/groups/tomorrowsteachers. We encourage instructors to also register your class for NJFEA membership in order to attend conferences, access exclusive materials, and more ([view our event calendar](#))! Registration for next summer's training will open December 1. We hope to see you there!

Future Educators Academy 2022

In July, CFE hosted the first residential version of its Future Educators Academy! Ten high school juniors and seniors were selected from a pool of applicants to live on TCNJ's campus and engage in a week of intensive and interactive learning. During this week, they were supported by five camp counselors, who are current education majors at TCNJ. Each day, students got the opportunity to learn from experienced educators, including NJ State Teachers of the Year and college/university professors. Each lesson was tailored to help the students exercise the skills they already had and provide them with new tools, all of which would be used in preparing for and delivering a live lesson. Check out these day-by-day snapshots!

DAY 1

Students arrived at TCNJ! The counselors helped them move in, gave guided tours of the campus, and helped the students get to know each other better with some fun icebreaker activities. Participants then spent the afternoon with *five* New Jersey State Teachers of the Year (including our executive director!) who shared some wisdom on connecting with students as an educator and creating a family in the classroom.



(Left to right) Liana Rodriguez, Sky Sedlacek, Emma Williams, Kay Acevedo, Hannia Herrera-Cruz, Campbell Maenner, Uma Mistry, Rebecca Voto, Juliet Salmeron, and Thairah Castillo



Counselors Hannah Rodenhaver, Bianca Nicolescu, Lauren Tragale, Alexis Scates, and Matthew Yuro

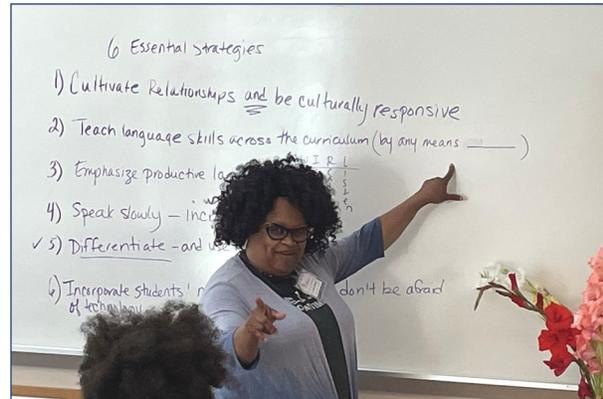


NJ STOYs Jeanne Muzi, Kimberly Dickstein Hughes, Jeanne DelColle, Angel Santiago, and Theresa Maughan

Future Educators Academy 2022 (cont.)

DAY 2

Students explored lesson planning with Dr. Linda Mayger in preparation for teaching a STEM lesson to elementary school students later in the week. They worked on designing, building, and testing out their own mini catapults! Dr. Dedra Williams then led an ESL workshop, where participants learned about different ways to support students' diverse identities and learning styles.



DAY 3

Ms. Jennifer Skomial worked with our students to help develop their classroom management skills, including how to structure their classroom, create inquiry dialogue, and honor students' voices. Students were then welcomed by Ms. Fasulo from TCNJ Admissions, who shared some helpful strategies for college applications. Dr. Salika Lawrence closed out the afternoon with a discussion on implicit biases, their effects on the teaching experience, and ways to better serve diverse groups of learners.



DAY 4

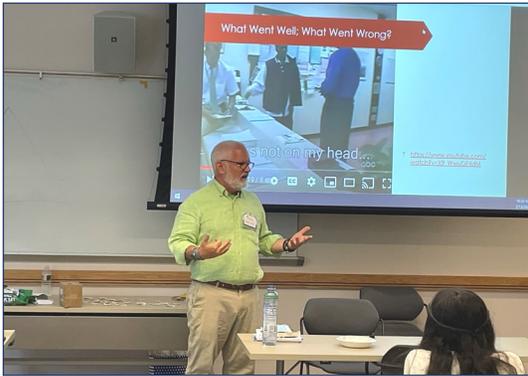
Field trip day! Students rocked their hand-made tie-dye shirts on a visit to the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) headquarters in Trenton to learn about the union's history and the resources they offer to educators at all stages of their professional journeys. We then spent the afternoon at Grounds for Sculpture to explore the gardens, engage with the art, and sculpt new creations!



Future Educators Academy 2022 (cont.)

DAY 5

The day started with Mr. TJ Belasco's presentation on social-emotional learning, which provided students with valuable stress management tools. Mr. Jordan Shyi, Director of Intercultural Affairs at TCNJ, shared his knowledge on culture shocks and decolonizing curricula. Dr. Nadya Pancsofar's lesson covered ways that we can deconstruct the stigmas surrounding disabilities and special education. Students then spent the rest of the day finalizing their STEM lessons, making sure to incorporate the new insights from the day.



DAY 6

The day finally arrived! Students traveled to Lawrence High School, eager to meet the young learners that they would be spending the morning with. In the blink of an eye, the STEM lessons were over and students worked with Jeanne Muzi and Dr. Maureen Connolly to reflect on the parts that went well and identify areas for improvement. We then enjoyed a barbecue dinner to celebrate!



Future Educators Academy 2022 (cont.)

DAY 7

The last workshop of the Academy was led by Ms. Marisol Espinoza, who discussed the importance of implementing and protecting LGBTQ+ curriculum in schools. Mr. Malik McKinley from ETS also visited to provide key info about the Praxis Core tests for teacher candidates. Students then got the opportunity to share their work from the week through capstone presentations! We ended the Academy with a celebratory closing dinner, joined by students' families and New Jersey State and County Teachers of the Year. So bittersweet!



Speaker Series

The first CFE Speaker Series event of the school year featured the program's moderator, Kimberly Dickstein Hughes! Hughes filled us in on some of the professional development (PD) activities that educators take part in over the summer. For Hughes, global travel plays a big role in her PD experiences. This past summer, Hughes went to Peru as a National Education Association (NEA) Foundation Learning Fellow. This fellowship creates local and international PD opportunities to widen worldviews and increase global competency, with the end goal of bringing this knowledge back into the classroom. "It has really made me think about my role as an American in the global community, and the responsibility I have to not only speak up and speak out, but also listen", reflects Hughes. "I really really really am grateful to international travel for helping me become a better global citizen, and I look at myself as a global citizen first." To watch the full back-to-school session, visit our Speaker Series webpage (futureeducators.tcnj.edu/speaker-series) or visit our YouTube channel (tinyurl.com/9e9y6mrm). The next Zoom event will take place on Wednesday, October 19 at 3:30 pm. Mark your calendars!



Resources

- **Hispanic Heritage Month:** Check out [PBS's documentaries and video profiles](#) dedicated to educating on and celebrating the Hispanic and Latin American experience.
- **Books:** Banned Books Week may be over, but it's always the right time to push back against book censorship! Check out the [ALA's list of banned books by year](#) (bottom of the page) and [read the 2020 School Librarian of the Year's](#) views on literary censorship.
- **Webinar:** On Oct. 5, Dr. Jeanne DelColle will discuss CFE's history and work, as well as provide tools for tackling the teacher shortage. [Register and watch here!](#)
- **Suicide Prevention and Awareness:** Do you know the warning signs and risk factors of suicide? Refer to this [helpful outline](#) from the National Alliance on Mental Illness.
- **Article:** Want tips on creating a more social-justice-conscious curriculum? Check out this [Learning for Justice article](#).

About CFE

The Center for Educators (CFE) was established at The College of New Jersey in 2011 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
609.771.2394

futureeducators.tcnj.edu