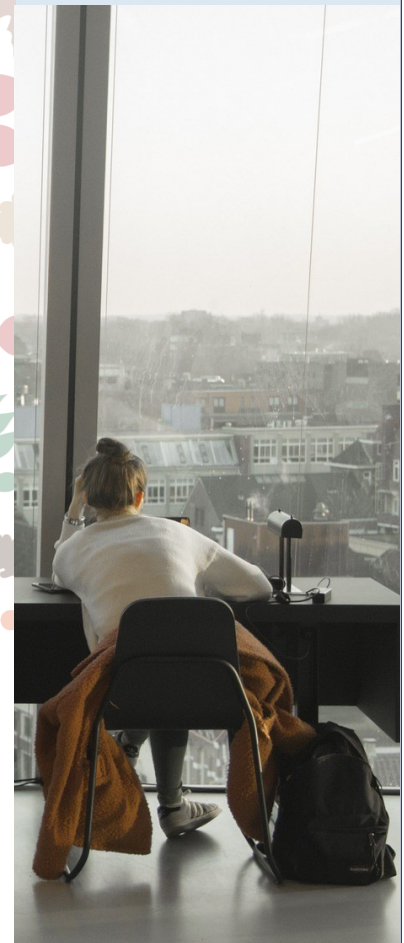


Tomorrow and Today, NJFEA



From the Executive Director’s Desk

Dear Friends of the CFE,

It is the holiday season once again which is one of my favorite times of the year. Maybe it is because the cold and darkness make it tougher to get through the day, I find that people at this time of year exhibit a little more grace than usual. As a teacher, I remember the time between Thanksgiving and winter break as a time when students got a sparkle in their eyes and there was a new sense of energy buzzing around the classroom that I used to refer to as the “jingles.” Teachers, you know exactly what I mean.

Here at the CFE, we are continuing doing what we can to help inspire the next generation of educators. A big part of that inspiration comes from the NJFEA conferences held throughout the state. Hot on the heels of a very successful NJFEA conference at Kean University in October, we are pleased that we will be hosting our next NJFEA conference at TCNJ on January 13. You will want to [register](#) for this one soon because the deadline is coming up on **December 16**. We will also be hosting an NJFEA middle/high school conference at Stockton University on May 25. In addition, we will shortly be announcing an NJFEA conference for future educators of color at Montclair State University in early May.

If your school does not cover the cost of membership for your NJFEA students and you are an NJEA affiliated district, please check with your

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From the Executive Director's Desk (cont.)

local education association president about using PRIDE funding to cover the cost of your students. The PRIDE chairs have already been briefed by NJEA that NJFEA membership is an appropriate use of those funds.

In the coming months, our NJFEA state officers will be holding student-to-student officer meetings to gather feedback from the field and to launch this year's service project. Stay tuned for more details in our weekly emails. If you are not on our official mailing list already, please [sign up here](#).

Thinking ahead, for those of you who would like to attend the Tomorrow's Teachers training on June 27 & 28, [registration is now open](http://tinyurl.com/2umfhppj) (tinyurl.com/2umfhppj). Make sure you sign up early in order to qualify for the early bird discount! As always, anyone who teaches the TT course must be officially trained by CERRA. There is no cost to you for the training, only the cost of the curriculum. If you have already been trained in the 11th edition of *Experiencing Education*, you are welcome to attend refresher training for free.

Additionally, in partnership with Fairleigh Dickinson University, we are currently looking for a district that would be willing to pilot a Tomorrow's Teachers course in Spanish next year. If you are not yet trained for Tomorrow's Teachers, then you will need to attend next summer's training. If you are interested, please contact us at cfe@tcnj.edu.

As we near the winter solstice on December 21 and look forward to gaining back daylight, I hope you are all able to find brightness, whether it is the decorations on the streets and houses, or the smile on a loved one's face. This is a difficult time of year for many and as we lean into grace please remember to be kind to people because you never know what they are going through. What a beautiful world this would be if we all recognized the humanity of people and treated everyone with dignity and respect.

Best wishes for a peaceful and healthy holiday season. See you next year!

Yours in learning,

Jeanne DelColle, Ph.D.



Speaker Series



October's Speaker Series event featured Tom Young, an elementary school teacher from Vermont. Like our first guest speaker of the year, Kimberly Dickstein Hughes, Young has gained experience abroad as an educator. After finishing college, he traveled to Saipan (Northern Mariana Islands) for his first two years of professional teaching experience, where he learned to become more flexible when faced with

new and unexpected situations. He then returned to the U.S. to continue his elementary education career. In addition to leading in the classroom, Young enjoys coaching basketball. He currently coaches a high school varsity team, which grew to become one of Vermont's best teams under his leadership. Young is currently in his 26th year of teaching and is still going strong! When asked about what drew him to elementary education in the first place, he replied that he enjoyed being able to teach foundational skills. "It's rewarding to know that I'm doing something that even when they're 80 they'll still be doing." To learn more about Mr. Young's teaching experience abroad and the work he does both in and out of the classroom, watch the [full recorded session](#).

.....

For November's Speaker Series event, we got to welcome Christine Girtain, the 2022–2023 NJ State Teacher of the Year! Girtain attended The College of New Jersey as a first generation college student and graduated with a degree in biology, as well as a unique teaching certification that qualified her to teach in all fields of the sciences. After almost ten years of teaching, Girtain returned to school to get her master's degree. She credits this decision with giving her new opportunities to meet and network with earth science teachers from across New Jersey, which eventually led to her first national conference presentation and first journal publication. Girtain became more involved with youth STEM activities and helped to launch and expand several STEM camps in Ocean County. She then dove into biotechnology training, some which took place at MIT, and used this training to build STEM pipelines for students through summer programs and research opportunities. Her work is supported by a wide range of organizations, including the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). In speaking of her hopes for her students, Girtain impressed that she was not invested in what particular field her students chose. "I just want them to know that there are other choices. And if I don't increase my knowledge of those other choices, then it really limits what my students can do." Find out more about Ms. Girtain's teaching journey, STEM projects, and agricultural advocacy in the [November recording here!](#)



2022–2023 NJFEA State Officers

Say hello to this school year’s NJFEA student leadership team! If you didn’t get the chance to meet them at October’s conference at Kean University, there will be more opportunities at future conference and virtual NJFEA meetings! In the meantime, learn a little about them below.



PRESIDENT

OLIVIA GRAY

Passaic County Technical Institute



VICE PRESIDENT

THAIRAH CASTILLO

Passaic County Technical Institute



SECRETARY

GIANNA STIPELKOVICH

Passaic County Technical Institute



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

DIAMOND PREVILON

Union County Vocational-Technical High School

Q

What would be one song in the soundtrack to your life so far?

A

OLIVIA: “Greatest Love of All” by Whitney Houston because I found a lot of appreciation and pride in who I have become because of the self-confidence I maintained.

THAIRAH: “Shine On You Crazy Diamond (1-5)” by Pink Floyd because to me the song represents the internal strength to keep going despite any struggles you may have faced.

GIANNA: “Scars To Your Beautiful” by Alessia Cara because it encourages the idea of self-acceptance and the difficulties that many people face with beauty standards.

DIAMOND: “Wait on You” by Maverick City Music because throughout my life I have always needed to remind myself that what is meant for me will not come according to my time.

Q

If you could be fluent in one language, what would it be?

A

OLIVIA: I intend to be fluent in Tagalog as my Filipino family always hoped I would learn it and speaking the language would make me feel closer to my Filipino heritage.

THAIRAH: I would choose Arabic. It is such a beautiful language with a lot of culture behind it and I love immersing myself in those kinds of things.

GIANNA: Spanish because it is one of the most common spoken languages in the world. Being fluent I would be able to help people communicate who do not speak the language.

DIAMOND: It would be French because the language sounds so elegant and some of my family members speak it, as well.

2022–2023 NJFEA State Officers (cont.)

Q Are you more introverted or extroverted?

A **OLIVIA:** Although I like the thought of being out and about, I grew more comfortable thinking and keeping to myself without the stress of figuring out ways to keep conversations flowing.

THAIRAH: I'm the definition of an extrovert. Being around new people and having the opportunity to make new friends is something I love. I'm also always talking so that helps!

GIANNA: I'm more extroverted than introverted. I am very energetic and love spending time with my friends. I would rather spend time with other people than having alone time.

DIAMOND: I'm more introverted than extroverted but most of the time I'll adapt to whatever environment I'm in. If I'm with more energetic and social people, I'll be social too.

Q Aside from basic necessities, your friends/family (including pets), and your phone, what is one thing you would not want to live without?

A **OLIVIA:** My false eyelashes! I have yet to be seen in public without them or forget to maintain them since I was fifteen, and I am sticking to it. They have become such a big part of my self-esteem and identity that I wouldn't feel like myself without them.

THAIRAH: I know this is going to sound super cheesy, but my memories. Looking back at all the moments I've experienced in life and reliving the moments whether happy or sad is something I cherish because of the reflection opportunity it gives me.

GIANNA: Much of the jewelry that I have is passed down in my family, and each piece holds a special story. When wearing this jewelry I feel like I always have a part of my family with me.

DIAMOND: My books. Ever since I was little I've loved reading, and it has gotten harder to find time to do so as I get older.

Q What is a quote you would say to yourself or someone else as encouragement if faced with trying something new and scary?

A **OLIVIA:** "Nothing will hurt you as much as your own expectations." or "Old keys won't open new doors."

THAIRAH: "In life, doing anything that's worth anything scares you."

GIANNA: "Never be afraid to try something new because life gets boring when you stay within the limits of what you already know."

DIAMOND: "Your only limits are the ones you set for yourself."

Student Leadership Training

On Saturday, October 8, our new NJFEA state officers gathered for the first time to participate in a half-day orientation and leadership training at The College of New Jersey. The training portion of the day was led by TCNJ's Leadership Development Program (LDP), a student organization dedicated to helping its members learn and develop a variety of skills, transforming them into better-equipped team members and leaders. They guided our students through a number of hands-on activities that challenged their listening, communication, critical thinking, and team-working abilities.

In the first activity, the students had to guide one, and then several, hula hoops down to the floor. "You would think this was easy," reflects Gianna (Secretary), "but there were some challenges we had to be overcome, like closing our eyes and using only two fingers." In the next activity, the students instructed to make different shapes together out of one long piece of string while keeping their eyes closed. This activity was especially challenging, as students had to be aware of where each person was in the room, how they were positioned, and which part of the string they were holding onto. "We had to trust what we were telling each other," said Thairah (Vice President). "It was an incredibly fun activity and an amazing experience."



Students then took on a "survival mission." The LDP college students provided our leaders with a prompt: they were stranded in the snow in Canada after a crash landing and needed to work together to rank the importance of the items they had with them. The training wrapped up with a final activity, where students broke off into pairs and guided their partners to draw an image that only one of them could see. Diamond (Communications Officer) shared that it was "interesting and a lot of fun to observe how we all describe and communicate differently. This activity contributed to our understanding of each other and led us to discover who our best speakers are and more." Our students left that day with the leadership knowledge and skills needed to thrive as NJFEA state officers. In addition, "getting introduced to the personalities and inner qualities of the other officers was definitely a big, important step to strengthening the relationships within the team", said Olivia (President). The officers look forward to everything that this school year has in store and are excited to represent their fellow future educators!

State Officer Chapter Introductions

Passaic County Technical Institute

Gianna Stipelkovich

Passaic County Technical Institute's NJFEA chapter has about 41 student members, which vary from freshman students to seniors. There are four NJFEA officer positions in CFE, and out of the four, three students are from PCTI. We have participated in various NJFEA conferences held in the past years. The most recent one our chapter attended was at Kean University this past October. Many members from our chapter were able to attend this event and gained new knowledge. We also look forward to attending the next conference at TCNJ in January.

Along with attending in-person events, NJFEA provides students with the opportunity to participate its live virtual speaker series discussions or watch the recorded versions. These speaker series videos help students in our club learn about various topics, like the experiences of male educators. We also attend other virtual meetings, such as William Paterson University's PD. At our school meetings, we have had teachers talk about their firsthand experience within the field. At our last meeting, two high school teachers (one teaches science and the other teaches math) joined in and shared their stories on how they became teachers and some struggles students face in college. Their experiences help all of us better understand the what it's really like to be a college student, especially as an education major. Our chapter also holds discussions about real-world problems facing education, such as teacher shortages. These are just some of the many things our chapter has done this year, and there is still more to come!



Union County Vocational-Technical High School

Diamond Previlon

The Union County Vocational-Technical High School (UCVTS) chapter includes 75 members, all varying from grades 9–11. The chapter's students are extraordinarily versatile in everything they do from competitions to workshops and conferences. Most recently, they competed in the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Fall Competition. The chapter achieved three gold, two silver, and five bronze awards in categories concerning education and child development!

In addition, the chapter has been active in NJFEA with their attendance at the Fall 2022 Conference hosted at Kean University. Students from this chapter were enriched and benefited from the workshops, especially those centered around diversity. This ties along with the sophomore curriculum, which is now focused on multicultural literature. Just a week ago, they analyzed a case study based upon the effects of multicultural literature in a young classroom.

State Officer Chapter Introductions (cont.)

Prior to this, sophomores were learning about barriers to education, such as poverty, and how they affect a student's emotional and academic success.

Meanwhile, the freshman of this chapter had ventured on a field trip to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania! On this trip, they were taught about Freedom of Speech and its correlation to education. In the classroom, they are moving into the history of education, law, and policy.

The juniors of UCVTS are hard at work this fall, too. This semester they are learning about the different methods of instruction. More specifically, they are concentrated on how to build self-esteem in students. These skills will be useful to students in a chapter-organized event, where students have the opportunity to care for young children.

As fall comes to a close, this chapter continues to actively participate in equitable education. They have attended numerous workshops, one associated with Best Buddies, and another about conflict resolution. The UCVTS chapter is incredibly enthusiastic about their partnership with She's the First and are currently working to partner with other organizations that help the world succeed. All in all, this chapter continues to strive for everything education stands for.



Fall 2022 NJFEA Conference

Thairah Castillo

At the end of October, the CFE hosted its first conference of the new school year at Kean University. Teachers and students from across the state attended, making this fall conference one of the biggest the CFE has held with over three hundred participants. In the morning, attendees had the opportunity to hear from the keynote speaker, Ana Berdecia, who is the director of the Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children at Kean University as well as the program director of the New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Institute and Mentoring Program. Following the beginning of the program, students headed off into sessions where they learned about various topics in education, ranging from culturally responsive teaching and music integration in the classroom to art education and student leadership. Culturally inclusive science classes were also an interesting topic included among the various session choices.

Fall 2022 NJFEA Conference (cont.)

Following the sessions, students had the opportunity to hear from a panel of students currently enrolled in Kean's education program (including one TCNJ student). Attendees then engaged in a networking lunch where everyone was grouped according to the table number on their name tag, giving them the chance to meet new people. Participants also toured the conference space, leaving nice notes for the hosts of the sessions they attended as a token of appreciation. As a final activity during the lunch, students were given a prompt to "Build-A-Teacher." Using markers and large Post-It notes, students had to come up with traits they believe a teacher should embody. Kean University students also hosted campus tours for interested participants. Overall, the conference was an amazing way for the CFE to kick off the events planned for this new school year. Up next? January's conference at The College of New Jersey!

Participants in mixed groups right before the networking lunch



Students engaging in a breakout session centered on music



The conference panel made up of Kean University and TCNJ preservice students



Issues in Education

Olivia Gray

According to the State of New Jersey Department of Health, 16,122 cases of influenza and RSV have been reported and increased since the week of November 12. The contagiousness of the infections means that a high number of outbreaks occur in schools and childcare based centers, resulting in high absence rates and hospital visits. Young infants, toddlers, and children with severe lung infections are most susceptible to the illness and show similar symptoms to a seasonal cold or flu. Families across the state are prompted to practice proper handwashing with their children to lessen the spread and take nonprescription-based medicines and antibiotics to treat RSV.



With many children out of the classroom, learning is lost. One child with influenza or RSV that attends school initiates a ripple effect that leads more students to miss time for in-person education. Even before the COVID pandemic, RSV was present in schools and in the summer of 2021, professionals foresaw the rise in cases in the typical fall and winter seasons. Despite the attack of the threatening virus, New Jersey early childhood educators are taking the necessary health and safety precautions, including cleaning classroom surfaces regularly, encouraging proper hygiene, and discussing safety measures that families can take to ward off the infection.



On a brighter note regarding today's world of education in the United States, many districts look forward to distributing over fifty-million take-home Chromebooks to students. The goal of these initiatives is to provide students who do not have an at-home device with the equipment that can allow them to more easily complete their academic work. The more accessibility students have to technological devices, the greater opportunities they have to thrive and succeed outside of their educational environment.

Chapter Highlights

- ★ **North Brunswick High School's** NJFEA chapter distributed thank you gifts during Educator Appreciation Week and attended the Fall Conference at Kean! Congrats to the chapter for also quadrupling in size!
- ★ In November, **Montgomery Township High School's** chapter hosted a gratitude meeting. Each club member nominated at least one teacher to attend who has made an impact on their life. They gathered after school and ordered pizza. Then, their members asked these teachers questions about the profession and how they manage to balance work and life. Everyone got to learn about each other and celebrate being a part of one of the hardest and best professions out there.



CENTER FOR
FUTURE EDUCATORS AT
THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

DEADLINE
APPROACHING
SOON!

NJFEA HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE WINTER 2023

Empowering Educators: Solving Problems and Making a Difference

January 13 | 8:30 am–2:00 pm | The College of New Jersey



This conference is open to NJFEA members in grades 9–12 at no cost, and a complimentary lunch will be provided.



Conference registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students must be registered and accompanied to this conference by a teacher, counselor, or school administrator. Students may not register themselves. The dress is smart casual.



Keynote Speaker

CHRISTINE GIRTAIN

2022–23 NJ State Teacher of the Year
Science Educator at Toms River High
School North and South

NJFEA advisors and Tomorrow's Teachers instructors must register their students for membership for the 2022–23 school year by visiting www.thinkregistration.com/feaaff/nj/. For any questions, please email us at cfe@tcnj.edu.

REGISTER

DEADLINE: DEC 16

www.thinkregistration.com/njfea/sj/

futureeducators.tcnj.edu

njea

   @cfetenj

Resources

- **Native Land:** Want to know about the Native land that is under your feet? Check out [this collaborative map](#).
- **Online Lesson:** Learn about the [Northern Plains history and culture](#) through the perspectives of American Indigenous peoples.
- **Curriculum:** NJ schools have been implementing climate change education across more grades and subject areas in response to new learning standards. Learn more [here](#).
- **Wellness:** It's no secret that students would love a later start to the school day, but how could it benefit teachers as well? Read about it [here](#).
- **Career Prep:** Looking for some ways to be more prepared to enter college and the education field? Explore some of the tips in this [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

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