

Tomorrow and Today, NJFEA



From the Executive Director’s Desk

Dear Friends of the CFE,

It is the time of year for annual rites of passage, including proms and graduations, which signal the end of one chapter and the beginning of the next. Thanks to all of you, many of those students will become educators and have the opportunity to shape the lives of countless young people in the years to come because being an educator makes all other professions possible.

It has been a good year here at the CFE, and we have you to thank for that. We have grown to 75 chapters and over 750+ students this year, including our first middle school chapters. We have hosted 4 NJFEA conferences throughout the year at Kean University, TCNJ, Montclair State University, and Stockton University, where students had the opportunity to do everything from learning about maple syrup production in an outdoor classroom to collaborating to achieve deaf-friendly classrooms. We are already planning for next year’s NJFEA conferences at William Paterson (Oct 13), Drew University (January, date TBA), Rider University (March, date TBA), and Rowan College of South Jersey-Gloucester (May 21), and we hope to see you at one or more of these events. Remember, your students must be NJFEA members to attend an NJFEA conference!

Speaking of growth, we are also happy to be hosting the Tomorrow’s

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From the Executive Director's Desk (cont.)

Teachers training for 35 educators this summer at **The College of New Jersey** on June 27–28. This is the largest group to be trained since at least 2018 in **Tomorrow's Teachers**, an elective course for upperclassmen that is also a dual-credit opportunity. Some of the teachers will be starting the very first bilingual **Tomorrow's Teachers** programs in NJ in the 2023–24 school year.

Something else we have been hard at work on is our elementary NJFEA curriculum for students in grades 4–6. This 10-lesson unit is great for career exploration and it gets students thinking about the possibility of becoming an educator while they are still in elementary school. The curriculum will be available for schools who register an elementary NJFEA chapter with us.

In July, TCNJ will once again host the Future Educators Academy for rising juniors and seniors in high school. This year, we had an overwhelming amount of applications and we are pleased to have 25 students from 13 high schools join us on campus for the week. It is going to be a great summer!

Finally, I want to extend my thanks and give a shout out to our two senior NJFEA state officers who will be leaving us this year, Thairah Castillo and Olivia Gray from Passaic County Technical Institute. Their work has been a key part of the success of our organization and we wish them the best as they step into the next chapter of their educational journey. We will miss them.

To everyone, please have a relaxing and enjoyable summer.
Be safe and have fun. See you in September.

Yours in learning,

Jeanne DelColle, Ph.D.



NJFEA May Conferences

CFE was very active this past May; we hosted two NJFEA conferences in one month! Our first event took place at Montclair State University, and we got the chance to interact with 9 new and returning schools from North Jersey. The keynote speech was given by Michael Hannon, a counseling professor at MSU who also runs a non-profit organization aimed at supporting neurodivergent and other marginalized children and families. Following the keynote, students attended breakout sessions that covered ways to engage the community in education, reading and literacy, building relationships, the diverse roles of educators, and more. Check out the next page for highlights from the day!

NJFEA Conference at Montclair State University (cont.)

Dr. Hannon delivering his keynote speech on social justice and advocacy in schools

MSU graduate student Tariq Baxley delivering his session, "Building Relationships with Diverse Learners"



NJFEA advisor Ines Davis-Parks leading her session, "How to Engage the Community in Education Needs & Resources"



MSU preservice panelists sharing their college experiences and answering student questions

Students engaging in a session dedicated to exploring educational technology and the ways it can enhance the classroom experience



NJFEA May Conferences (cont.)

CFE's second May conference took place at Stockton University. It was great to finally return to hosting conferences in South Jersey, especially with a Tomorrow's Teachers dual-credit partner school. We had the opportunity to welcome 13 schools, some of which we had not been able to see in person for years! To mark the occasion, student were welcomed with a hot breakfast before hearing from the 2023 NJ State Teacher of the Year, Christine Girtain. Ms. Girtain served as our keynote speaker at January's conference at TCNJ, and so we were happy to have her valuable experiences and advice shared with more of the NJFEA community. After the keynote, student headed out to their breakout sessions, which covered topics such as leadership, the roles schools play in social change, social emotional learning for both teachers and students, and environmental education. Below are some featured memories from the event!

Keynote Christine Girtain sharing her journey to becoming a teacher and the lessons she has learned along the way



Student representatives from Stockton's first-generation club, First Ospreys, delivering a session on leadership as a first-gen student



Students taking a mini field trip outside during an environmental education session covering maple syrup production



NJFEA May Conferences (cont.)



Stockton's preservice panel included former NJFEA President, Angelina Maffei (far left), and two-time Future Educators Academy camp counselor, Alexis Scates (left)

Attendees taking part in our end-of-conference tradition, writing "thank you" notes to our breakout session presenters



We certainly ended this year's conferences off on a high note and look forward to doing it again next school year! Thank you to all of the students who attended, the educators who made the field trips possible, the speakers, panelists, and presenters who shared their diverse skills and knowledge, and the institutions that hosted!

Chapter Highlights

Every December, **Southern Regional High School's** chapter hosts an open event called Parents Day Out. Children 3–12 years old are dropped off for a day of activities so parents can get holiday shopping and gift wrapping done. They play games, cook, take pictures in a photo booth, and make a frame art project/gift for their parents. The chapter was able to use PRIDE funds from NJEA to pay for most of the supplies. Proceeds were then donated to causes in the school and community, including the school food bank, gift card donations for teens, and a schoolwide food drive for Atlantic City Rescue Mission.



Chapter Highlights

Science Park High School's NJFEA chapter has been engaged in numerous enrichment activities, including The Food Bank of New Jersey's Students Change Hunger campaign. On a weekly basis, members read scholarly articles that discuss education issues, and they attended three NJFEA conferences, taking place at Kean University, TCNJ, and Montclair State University. In March, members took a two-day field trip to Washington, D.C. to take in American history through art and architecture. Students visited the Lincoln Memorial and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture, and John Hopkins University!



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Passaic County Technical Institute's chapter hosted children from local daycare centers and kindergartens in celebration for April's Week of the Young Child. Members created obstacle courses, read stories, taught ASL and yoga, and performed various fairytales for the children. They ended the celebration with a professional storyteller. Check out pictures on the next page!

Chapter Highlights (cont.)



Students teach children ASL while reading *Brown Bear Brown Bear*

Professional storyteller Jonathan Kruck entertains audience members, young and old



The NJFEA chapter at **Morris Knolls High School** held two very fun events with Morris Knolls' Special Education SOAR students. The first event was a breakfast party, where students, staff, and NJFEA members enjoyed a bagel breakfast, played Just Dance, and listened to music. Members had raised money as a group to pay for the bagels and supplies. The second event involved making chocolate-covered pretzels for Valentine's Day with the students. At each station, an NJFEA member paired up with a student to assemble the pretzel treats. The pretzels were then sold to collect funds for some needed materials in the adaptive classroom.



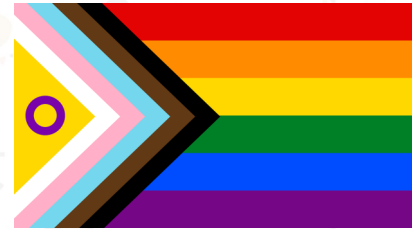
Asian American/Pacific Islander and LGBTQ+ Education

Our state officers compiled some information to help you learn more about AAPI and LGBTQ+ communities, within education and beyond.

Olivia Gray

President

GLSEN, America’s leading organization on LGBTQ+ issues in K–12 education, made important findings that they compiled in their 2021 National School Climate Survey. The findings concluded that school districts remain unsafe for a number of students, based on sexual orientation and gender expression. There are also fewer resources and less guidance from school officials available to LGBTQIA+ students. School rules also have been shown to be discriminatory against these students, especially transgender or non-binary individuals. As a result of a hostile school environment and unresponsive members in the institution, LGBTQIA+ students often encounter challenges with academic performance. These environments also lead to mental health challenges. With all of this in mind, there are not enough supportive educators and inclusive policies to help students feel welcomed by their peers in the classroom. More inclusive curricula, inclusive school clubs/organizations, anti-bullying safeguards, and other LGBTQ+-related resources would lead to better educational outcomes. Access the climate survey and learn more in GLSEN’s October 2022 news report, “LGBTQ+ Students Experience Hostile School Climates as School Support Declines” (source: tinyurl.com/yc3jkmbj).



With the rise of hate crimes against Asian Americans in the United States, it is imperative that Asian American history is taught in order to better educate people and hopefully eradicate a lot of the ignorance that people have. In school lessons, Asian people are largely overlooked, as their importance in historical events is treated as minor. Exposure to various types of people and cultures can help create open minded-individuals, free of the ignorance and hate that can be created when a group of people is treated as “less than”. Stereotypes being enforced by the media and people in power also add to the spread of hate that education can prevent. Getting Asian American and Pacific Islander history in classrooms starts with mandates that have already begun to pop up across the U.S. in states such as Illinois and New Jersey. As a history teacher, or even a student, there are ways that one can advocate for the inclusion of Asian American history in the classrooms, helping establish a foundation for inclusivity. You can read more about this issue in historian Erika Lee’s article, “The Necessity of Teaching Asian American History” (source: tinyurl.com/mhzbcejs).



Thairah Castillo

Vice President

AAPI and LGBTQ+ Resources (cont.)

Gianna Stipelkovich
Secretary



At Temple University, an opportunity arrived to come up with different ideas for new general education courses. Sean Yom and Lee-Ann Chae proposed a new class that was based on Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. These professors believed that it was important to teach new generations the type of “Philadelphia and America we live in”, so they began teaching these topics in classes such as political science and philosophy. The first nine weeks were mainly focused on subjects like: “AAPI identity and diversity, the history of AAPI immigration, law

and culture related to AAPI, forms of anti-AAPI violence and conflict, and social and political activism among AAPI communities.” The next 5 weeks of the course were taught based on the instructor’s expertise. This class was created for students who are and are not in the AAPI community. Sean Yom and Lee-Ann Chae hope that this course will be able to be taught more often and continue to be taught in the future. To learn more about this initiative, read Maria Klecko’s article, “New General Education Course to Focus on AAPI Identity and Experiences” (source: tinyurl.com/5h95cwct).

Additional Resources from our State Officers



- **Ted Talk:** Check out this [Tedx Talk](#) by 13-year-old Grace James about the need for LGBTQ+ education. (recommended by NJFEA President, Olivia Gray)
- **Arts-Based Education:** CANVAS Arts Action Programs shares a [slam poem](#) that expresses the importance of LGBTQ+ education. (recommended by NJFEA Vice President, Thairah Castillo)
- **AAPI Resources:** On this [NYC Public Schools webpage](#), you can find reading lists, video resources, educator resources, and more to gain a deeper understanding of AAPI histories and experiences. (recommended by NJFEA Secretary, Gianna Stipelkovich)
- **Legislation:** NY Congresswoman Grace Meng recently introduced a bill that supports teaching AAPI history in schools. Check out the [full news story here](#). (recommended by NJFEA Communications Officer, Diamond Previlon)

Student Leadership Team

Senior Shout-Outs



Olivia Gray

Spellman College: Elementary Education
Bonner Scholar

I hope to partner with local nonprofit organizations that will guide and teach me to establish one of my own with the purpose of helping families and their children receive free academic and personal support services, with components inclusive of low-income families or those with dependents that have special needs. Barack Obama once said, “We live in a moment where the dream of opportunity is within reach.” Anything is possible if you work hard enough, instill your passion, and have the heart to achieve it. Don’t sell yourself short of your dreams and believe in fate because you are destined for success.

Thairah Castillo

Kean University: Mathematical Sciences with a
K–12 Teaching Certification

I plan on becoming a part of NJEA’s Preservice, where I hope to gain more skills and knowledge relevant to the education field. Throughout college, I plan to continue being a helpful member in my community and hope to join one of Kean’s community service-based programs; this will let me continue doing what I love, helping others. While in college, I would also like to become a substitute teacher and hopefully return to my high school after graduating to teach there! My piece of senior wisdom is continue to let your ambition drive you, but do not forget that you are young and make mistakes, and you should always make time to have fun!



TO OUR STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM
THANK YOU!

2023–24 Reminders

- **Membership:** The [NJFEA membership portal](#) will be reopened the first week of September so that advisors can begin adding students to their rosters for the 2023–24 school year. Learn more about potential avenues for funding on our webpage, [Starting an NJFEA Chapter](#).
- **Student Ambassadors:** The application for CFE Student Ambassadors will also be available in September. Check out the [Terms of Service and Duties](#).
- **Conferences:** William Paterson University (Oct 13) | Drew University (January, date TBA) | Rider University (March, date TBA) | Rowan College of South Jersey-Gloucester (May 21)
- **Mailing List:** Advisors and instructors, if you are not yet signed up to our mailing list, you can do so [here](#). This is our official channel for news and updates regarding CFE-NJFEA events and activities.

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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