

The SMARTboard

Newsletter of the New Jersey Future Educators Association—
A Publication of the Center for Future Educators at TCNJ



January/
February 2015

HAPPY 2015 TO NJ FUTURE TEACHERS! "On the Move and Making a Difference"

The Center for Future Educators and the New Jersey Future Educators Association is looking forward to another **exciting year ahead!** The 2015 calendar of events/programs and activities is filling up quickly. Check out the "Mark Your Calendar" section on the [Center for Future Educators home page](#) and see the [Upcoming 2015 Events](#) on the Center for Future Educators website for a full list of important dates.

Remember! Space is limited for all of our events/programs and demand grows each year! So, we encourage you to sign up as soon as registration opens for our programs. Check back often on the Center for Future Educators website and "Like Us" on the Center for Future Educators/NJFEA [Facebook page](#) often to stay up to date!



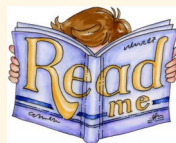
We are also very happy to report that our **"Future Teachers Making a Difference"** initiative is going extremely well. We are pleased by the great response that we have from participating chapters and Tomorrow's Teachers course electives from every region of New Jersey, and we are looking forward to supporting these service projects that will impact our schools and communities. Read about the service project proposals beginning on [page 4](#) of this issue of *The Smartboard*.

NJFEA is also sponsoring the **"Teens for Jeans"** service project for a second year due to its high participation rate and huge success! See [page 7](#) of this issue of *The Smartboard* for the Teens for Jeans service project flyer.

Also, see [special articles written by our current and former NJFEA state officers](#) on pages 8 to 11 in this issue.

Don't miss out on anything!

Be sure to read this issue from cover to cover!



Movie for Future Teachers: "When The Game Stands Tall"



Inspired by a true story and directed by Thomas Carter, "When the Game Stands Tall" follows the journey of legendary football coach Bob Ladouceur who took the De La Salle High School

Spartans from obscurity to a 151-game winning streak that shattered all records for any American sport. There are lessons in this movie that have striking and meaningful implications for future teachers. It is available *On Demand* and on [YouTube](#).

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Membership Matters! Join other aspiring future teachers in high schools and middle schools across the state and become a part of our growing network! Join [here!](#)

Think 'Summer' This Winter Summer Teacher Academy Planning Underway!

New Jersey's first-ever **Urban Teacher Academy (UTA)** was developed and implemented at **The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)** in 2006. Now in its 10th year, the UTA at TCNJ will be offered from July 27th through August 7th, 2015. Demand is



high for space in this program, so be sure to get your applications in early! The deadline for all applications is **April 24, 2015**. Get your copy of the brochure and application on the Center for Future Educators website [here](#).

Other exciting Urban Teacher Academies are now also offered at colleges and universities across the state, including the following:

- July 6 – July 17, 2015 – Urban Teacher Academy at Richard Stockton College (Check the [Stockton School of Education website](#) for upcoming information about the UTA at Stockton College. For additional information, contact Dr. Meg White, Assistant Professor, Teacher Education, Richard Stockton College, at meg.white@stockton.edu.)
- July 6 – July 19, 2015 – Summer Teacher Academy at Fairleigh Dickinson University (See the program [brochure](#). For additional information, contact Dr. Vicki L. Cohen at 201 692-2525 or cohen@fdu.edu.)
- July 13 – July 24, 2015 – Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Teacher Academy at Rider University (See the program [brochure](#). For additional information, contact Suzanne Carbonaro at scarbonaro@rider.edu or 609-895-5409.)
- July 20 – July 31, 2014 – Urban Teacher Academy at Rowan University (For information, or to request a personalized program presentation at your school, contact Karen Rosa at rosa@rowan.edu or 856-256-4750.)

Updates on all Urban Teacher Academy/Summer Teacher Academy programs will be provided on the [Center for Future Educators website](#) as information becomes available.

NJFEA Southern Regional Conference at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey—Registration Now Open!



STOCKTON COLLEGE
THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Future Educators Association is very pleased to invite you and your students in grades 9-12 who aspire to become future teachers to the New Jersey Future Educators Association (NJFEA) Southern Regional Conference at Richard Stockton College, Galloway, NJ, on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. We have planned a very exciting day of activities, speakers, and breakout sessions.

Students must be registered and accompanied to this conference by a high school faculty member or NJFEA adviser. Each high school is invited to bring 15-20 aspiring future teachers. Registration is done on-line at <http://www.oksignmeup.com/njfea/spring>.

There is no charge for attending this conference. A complimentary lunch will be provided. Dress is smart casual. Information about travel directions and parking at Stockton College will be sent to advisers/chaperones in mid-May.

Funding for this conference is provided by the New Jersey Education Association.

<<See the [conference flyer](#) on the Center for Future Educators website.>>

For more information, contact Mr. Larry Fieber, NJFEA State Director, at: 609-771-2464 or feiber@tcnj.edu.

Your NJ Future Educators Association: A National Leader!

*Did you know that New Jersey is among the states with the greatest number of FEA (NJFEA) chapters in the nation?
It's true!*



Get your membership (chapter or individual member) on the
[Center for Future Educators website.](#)



2015 NJFEA Middle School Conference Registration Open!

The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Future Educators Association (NJFEA), and the New Jersey Association of Middle Level Educators (NJAMLE) cordially invite middle school students in grades 6-8 who are interested in becoming future teachers to attend the NJFEA Middle School Conference

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

9:00 AM – 1:45 PM

The College of New Jersey
School of Education—Room 212
2000 Pennington Road
Ewing, New Jersey, 08628

The NJFEA Middle School Conference is planned for approximately 225 students in grades 6-8. 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.

There is no charge for attending this conference. A complimentary lunch will be provided. Dress is smart casual.

Please register on line at:

<http://www.oksignmeup.com/njfea/ms/>

Please direct inquiries to Mr. Larry Fieber, Executive Director Center for Future Educators at the College of New Jersey,. (609) 771-2464 or fieber@tcnj.edu.

Tomorrow's Teachers



Instructors may select one or two sites for the two-day training, which will be conducted by CERRA instructors and will take place as follows:

Fairleigh Dickinson University (Teaneck):

Monday, June 29, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and
Tuesday, June 30, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Rider University (Lawrenceville):

Wednesday, July 1, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and
Thursday, July 2, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The cost for the **Tomorrow's Teachers** 10th Edition course curriculum is \$520 to be paid by each participating high school. Invoices for this curriculum will be sent directly to each school district upon acceptance of the course instructor. There are no other direct expenses required for **Tomorrow's Teachers**. The

Instructors interested in participating in the **Tomorrow's Teachers** training must complete the application and submit it to Larry Fieber, Executive Director of the Center for Future Educators at The College of New Jersey, by **Friday, May 2, 2015**. **Applications may be faxed to 609-637-5065**. Please contact Mr. Larry Fieber at 609-771-2464 or fieber@tcnj.edu with any questions.

The [registration form](#) for the 2015 Tomorrow's Teachers Training sessions is now available on the Center for Future Educators website.

“Future Teachers Making a Difference”

We are very happy to report that our **"Future Teachers Making a Difference"** initiative is going extremely well. We are pleased by the great response that we have from participating chapters and Tomorrow's Teachers course electives from every region of New Jersey, and we are looking forward to supporting these service projects that will impact our schools and communities.

Summaries of Submitted Projects: Read All About Them!



American History High School: “Social Challenges Affecting the Educational Environment: Bullying, Violence, and Social Etiquette”

Purpose: To address the need for exposure to skill sets fostering and supporting positive social and emotional development; help our students form positive relationships with family, friends, peers at school, and adults in a professional setting; inspire and encourage our youth to engage in meaningful activities.



American History High School: “Let’s Paint & Read with the Autistic Students”

Purpose: To promote dialogue and camaraderie between the general population and the autistic students at American History High School.



Cherry Hill High School East: “Project SUCCESS (Students United Connected and Committed for Educational Success for all Students)”

Purpose: To establish a mentoring program accessible to any student in Cherry Hill High School East and West; improve study habits of students, help them to stay organized, and give them strategies to complete assignments; create a stronger foundation in English and mathematics.



Cranford High School: “Bringing Movement Where There is Confinement”

Purpose: To serve the community with educational, recreational, and social activities promoting development and social, cognitive, physical-gross and fine motor skills.



Hanover Park Regional High School: “Under the Sea with Class 2B”

Purpose: To create a puppet show to instill the idea of self-esteem in young children; have students from pre-school to 2nd grade enjoy a puppet show with exuberant characters and plot lines, while learning the meaning of self-esteem.



Henry Snyder High School: “Snyder’s First Freshman Talent Show Audience: School Community”

Purpose: To make freshmen feel more “at home” in their surroundings, provide an activity that would allow them to showcase their talents, and allow the students to feel unity and pride concerning their school.



Hunterdon County Regional High School: “Bigs and Littles of Hunterdon Central”

Purpose: To provide a mechanism for underclassmen to have an older peer they can trust in a non-threatening environment; to provide a tool for new and freshman students to feel less vulnerable and disconnected in a large environment.



Continued on page 5.

Summaries of Submitted Projects *(continued from page 4)*

Keyport High School: “Boys and Girls Club of Newark Book Drive”

Purpose: To spread the love of reading to people all around us, especially to those who don't have the same educational opportunities as we do.



Liberty High School: “Operation Feed the Brain”

Purpose: To bring back the joy of reading and instilling in children a love of reading.



Lindenwold High School: “Libros y Little Ones: A Bilingual Story Hour”

Purpose: To plan and execute a bilingual story and craft hour at the Lindenwold Library; link Spanish-speaking members of the community to the resources available at the Library.



Manchester Township High School: “Alumni-Always a Hawk Day”

Purpose: To inform and enlighten the students in our school and bring the community together; to show students that they can accomplish things and be successful; to increase a sense of school and community pride amongst our students and utilize the great resources and connections of our Hawk Alumni.



Memorial High School and Liberty High School: “Pass it On to Pay it Forward”

Purpose: To implement a positive, self-perpetuating model based on Catherine Ryan Hyde's book, Pay it Forward; to have the FEA/NJFEA members lead the community in helping each other and, together, helping one another.



Montgomery High School: “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day Program”

Purpose: To implement a “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” program to promote our profession, while getting to spend time with the sons and daughters of the staff members of our school; to showcase the great work done at Montgomery High School.



Nottingham High School: Nottingham High School FEA Chapter Service Project

Purpose: To spend President's Day, normally a day off from school, to positively impact the lives of inner-city children at the Trenton Boys and Girls Club; meet and greet the boys and girls; teach/instruct in different activity stations.



Paulo Freire Charter School: “Self-Confidence Campaign”

Purpose: To create school-wide programming that fundamentally improves school culture by helping students increase self-esteem and self-confidence inside of the classroom.



Penns Grove High School: “Learning for Humanity”

Purpose: To provide children of the recipients of a Habitat for Humanity house with a “study center.”



Continued on page 6.

Summaries of Submitted Projects *(continued from page 5)*

Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies: “Global Exchange Project for Middle and High School Students”

Purpose: To plan and implement a series of intercultural conversations between students of the Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies and peer students in other societies.



Sussex County Technical School: “Saving One Family at a Time”

Purpose: To raise funding, supplies, and other items for families; to help people become more prepared to enter an ever changing workforce and teach them necessary skills and techniques they can use; to set a more solid foundation under some families and individuals to help better prepare them for an array of different challenges they might face.



Sussex County Technical School: “Technology Drive”

Purpose: To bring better technology to schools that don’t have it or can’t afford it; help students attain real world, computer skills; supply students with the technology needed to be able to get jobs.



Sussex County Technical School: “Footed Ground”

Purpose: To help raise up women living in a shelter program (e.g., New Jersey Battered Women’s Shelter); teach them how to handle finances; donate food and products that the shelter needs; tutor the children of the resident women; provide overall support.

Union County Vocational-Technical Schools: “Intergenerational Service-Learning Project”

Purpose: To learn about the lives, histories, and present day realities of our senior citizens; discover commonalities between young adults and senior citizens while also learning about history, culture, sociology, health, and other subjects; and break down generational stereotypes and appreciate individuality.



Verona High School: “Text Message Announcement Program”

Purpose: To implement a text message announcement program at Verona High School so as to avoid disrupting valuable class time with announcements.



West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South: “Future Teacher Talks”

Purpose: To provide informational and inspirational videos through a YouTube channel to connect the New Jersey current and forthcoming teaching community; to highlight the impact education and educators have on the lives of others.



Proposals were accepted through Friday, November 14th, for the New Jersey Future Educators Association’s 2014-15 statewide service project: “**Future Teachings Making a Difference.**” Up to 10 of “Future Teachers Making a Difference” service project proposals will be selected by a special NJFEA committee and recommended for filming by the Emmy-award winning Classroom Close-Up that will appear on NJ public television next fall.



TEENS FOR JEANS

NJFEA SERVICE PROJECT

Sign your school up at teensforjeans.com.

Background:

For the seventh year, Aéropostale and DoSomething.org are partnering to run the largest jeans drive in the nation. By organizing drives in their schools and communities, teens collect gently used jeans to drop off at their local Aéropostale store. Each store is paired with one or more local homeless shelter(s) to distribute the jeans to teens in need. Over 1,000 shelters across the U.S. and Canada will be participating!



The campaign began on **December 1, 2014** and runs through **February 15, 2015**. Teens can drop off jeans at their local Aéropostale from **January 12, 2015 to February 15, 2015**.

Why It's Important:

Between 2.3 and 3.5 million Americans experience homelessness annually. Included in that group are more than 1.5 million teens and children.

People entering a homeless shelter often don't have more than the clothes they're wearing. In fact, the number one item that young people request when they visit a homeless shelter is a pair of jeans – jeans can be worn multiple times before washing and are an important item of clothing to help everyone fit in.

How it Works:

1. In early December, teens sign their school up at teensforjeans.com or by texting JEANS to 38383.
2. Teens run jeans drives in their communities and schools.
3. Teens drop off the collected jeans at their local Aéropostale from January 12 to February 15, 2015.
4. Aéropostale distributes the jeans to local homeless shelters.



How to Run a Great Drive:



Spread the Word

Post details about your drive on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Put up posters in your school and community!

Include information in your school's newsletter, and ask about making an announcement over your school's PA system.

Be Strategic

Set up your drive in a place where a lot of people will see it, like in front of your school's office or in the entrance of your church.

Add a sign explaining who the jeans will be donated to, how long the box will be there, and who someone should contact with questions.

Make It a Team Effort

Ask your teachers if donating jeans could count as extra credit or a couple of extra points on the next pop quiz! Is there a school dance coming up? Find out if donating a pair of jeans could pay for a ticket!

Set a School Goal

Setting a goal helps everyone understand just how much they are contributing to the cause. Plus, you can make getting to the goal really fun!

Have teachers, staff, and faculty promise to do crazy things at the quarter, halfway, three quarter marks. Would they be willing to wear a crazy t-shirt to work? Shave their head? Dance at the next school assembly?

Shout Out

When classmates drop their jeans in the drive box, take their picture. Shout out that they donated on marketing flyers.

Take an old t-shirt and write the details of the drive (where, when, that you're collecting jeans) on the front and back with a permanent marker. Let those who have donated sign it!

How to Sign Up:

Go to teensforjeans.com and sign up your school to run a drive. When you sign up, you will be able to order for a banner to promote your drive and download posters to spread the word!



A Letter to Mrs. Sheri Einhorn from 2014-15 NJFEA State Officer, Amiel Holliday

Dear Mrs. Einhorn,

You are an excellent teacher. You can turn any regular type of classroom into an extremely energetic place. I've had the pleasure of having two classes with you. When you know you for so long, it's nearly impossible not to develop a relationship with you. Over my four years of high school, you have become sort of like a mom to me. When I had some bad news, I can come to you for some words of wisdom and encouragement. I come to you with exciting news also, just to have someone to reassure me of my small and big accomplishments. You are very approachable and always have a smile on your face. Mrs. Einhorn, you most definitely are my favorite teacher and I'm very blessed to have met you.

As I go through college and whatever else my future holds, I know that I'll never forget you. So, Mrs. Einhorn, thank you for being such an amazing teacher. You have truly had an impact on my life.

Much love,

Amiel Holliday



Mrs. Einhorn and Amiel Holliday

Mrs. Sheri Einhorn, M.A., teaches Comprehensive Business Education at Burlington Township High School. She also serves as the Google Apps High School Coordinator, Perkins Grant Administrator, DECA Advisor, and Class of 2016 Advisor.

2014-15 NJFEA State Officer, JonBonae' Shipman, Pays Tribute to Ms. Liz Ramamurthy



Ms. Liz Ramamurthy

A teacher who has made a great impact on my life is Ms. Ramamurthy. She was my past advisor and teacher at Foundation Collegiate Academy. From the time we met we bonded on both a personal and academic level. The bond continued even after Ms. Ramamurthy's journey to a new school in New York.

Ms. Ramamurthy inspired me to be my best and encouraged me when I was in my worst place in life. I will always be grateful and remember my relationship with the woman who inspired me to be a teacher.



JonBonae' Shipman

Ms. Liz Ramamurthy previously served as the Founding Special Education Teacher at Foundation Collegiate Academy in Trenton, NJ.

2014-15 NJFEA State Officer, Eric Struble, Pays Tribute to Mr. Robert Nosari

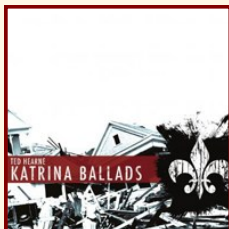


Mr. Robert Nosari (left) with 2014-15 NJFEA President Eric Struble

Mr. Robert Nosari has made a great impact on my life. Coming into high school, I didn't know what to expect. Like everyone else, I was nervous about even the simple things. My freshman year was also Mr. Nosari's first year as a full-time teacher. From the first time I met him, I could feel the young and positive energy he brought to our school. He welcomed every student with open arms and made each student feel comfortable and a part of the class. From being my freshman baseball coach, to being my US History teacher, and now the advisor to our future educators chapter at Nottingham, Mr. Nosari showed me what true leadership and ambition is.

Mr. Nosari believes in every student, and motivates students to come out of their comfort zones to reach their full potential. As a younger teacher, he brings great energy and is in touch with his students. He also makes lessons more technology based, utilizing Smartboard technology as well as using laptops in class frequently. On the baseball field, he is no less. He pushes his players and preaches teamwork, sportsmanship, and hard work ethic. Even as a fairly new teacher, he has done great things for our school. I know many people are really thankful to have Mr. Nosari at Nottingham. Personally, I am so grateful to have Mr. Nosari as a mentor in my life, and for inspiring me to become a teacher in the near future.

Katrina Ballads



This March, The College of New Jersey is pleased to present a unique and exclusive opportunity for high school students with interests in education, music, art, media, communications, social studies and/or social activism. The College of New Jersey Institute for Social Justice in the Arts and Humanities will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015, from 9:00AM – 3:00 PM and is free of charge. Timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the Institute will encourage students to explore how the arts can be used as a vehicle for social change.

Participation will include:

- A LIVE performance of composer Ted Hearne's *Katrina Ballads*, a piece that explores issues of social justice through media sound bytes from the weeks that followed Hurricane Katrina
- Participate in pre-performance discussion groups facilitated by TCNJ music and education faculty and students
- Engage in a post performance discussion with composer Ted Hearne
- View portions of Spike Lee's critically acclaimed Hurricane Katrina documentary, *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*
- Enjoy lunch at TCNJ and connect with other New Jersey high school students who share their interests in activism, equity, and social change through engagement with the arts!

All high school students are invited to take advantage of this great opportunity! A full schedule and link to register is available online at <http://www.tcnj.edu/katrinaballads>. If you have any questions, please reach out at any time. See also the [program flyer](#).

My College Experience: Chris Muzi, 2013-14 NJFEA Secretary



Chris Muzi, pictured above center

Having just finished my first semester at La Salle University in Philadelphia, I can honestly state the obvious: college is a lot different than high school! Learning to juggle classes, assignments, extra-curricular activities, and a social life can be challenging. There always seems to be so much to get done and never enough time. I began taking education classes this semester and completed Educational Diversity in the US and Teaching Literacy. I really enjoyed reading the texts, working on projects, and participating in discussions about education — in and out of class. Also, I volunteered with Special Olympics (an organization that has always been important to me), the Police Athletic League, and at an animal shelter. I found all my professors very approachable and the upper classmen were extremely helpful when I had questions or concerns. I also made some good friends and had fun exploring Philadelphia.

My advice to high school NJFEA members is to spend some time improving your time management skills. Juggling lots of requirements and responsibilities can be difficult. You are in charge of how you use your time and how you prioritize what needs to get done. I am continuing to work on this every day. Start getting ready now by practicing using tools like calendars, reminders, and alerts to stay on task. A good friend of mine once took my phone away for a few hours so it wouldn't distract me while I was studying! It is important to surround yourself with people who can help you: friends (old and new), mentors, parents, professors, and your advisor!

Remember every day is a chance to improve. So far, college is an adventure and I am learning a lot about myself!

We've Got to Be That Light - A Gift to America's Teachers

Watch this important YouTube video (link below) representing a heartfelt thank you to teachers across America for their unwavering dedication to the next generation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haUj3qUncOs>



My College Experience by Jennifer Simone, 2013-14 NJFEA Vice President



Jennifer Simone

College and high school are two completely different worlds. Going into Gettysburg College and adjusting, I felt very prepared for the academic work, but not so prepared for the social aspect of college. Though I found the work I was assigned manageable, my greatest challenge in college was finding time to do it. With my best friends only a few doors down, it is hard to decide when it is time to socialize and when it is time to do work. Deciding whether I should sleep or stay up and hang out with my friends was also a big decision in the beginning of the year. Adjusting to this new life can be very stressful and challenging. College is full of opportunities and the most important thing to learn is that some opportunities you will only have once and sometimes you have to give up time with your friends to take advantage of those opportunities. You will be happy that you did!

Though Gettysburg College is not particularly known for its teaching program, I have loved being involved in it so far. The college tackles education in a different way than most colleges: students pick a major based on the academic subject they want to teach and then go through a somewhat independent teacher certification program or educational studies minor. For example, I am majoring in history and also going through the teacher certification program. Though separate fields of study, the college does a great job connecting the two through methods courses. As a first year student, I take education classes that are very basic so we can form foundational knowledge. Last semester I took Educational Psychology and next I will be taking Social Foundations of Education. Within my first semester at Gettysburg I was already given the opportunity to student teach, which I am so grateful for. I formed and executed a six-week after-school program about diversity and it was a very rewarding experience, for the students learned more than I could have imagined. I am so pleased with the education program so far and I look forward to taking the more advanced classes in the future.

Surprisingly, there is so much to do to prepare for a teaching career, even in high school! There are so many opportunities for feeding your passion. For example, if you want to teach elementary students, then you can babysit for childcare experience. If you want to teach students with special needs, you can volunteer at a camp for those students. If you want to teach history, you can join your high school's political or debate club. All of those things that seem unrelated will help you more than you can imagine. I learned so much through all of my high school clubs and especially the NJFEA. I suggest you take advantage of the amazing learning opportunities provided by the NJFEA. Nothing shaped my high school career more than the NJFEA, so I encourage you all to get as involved as possible, for you can do amazing things through this organization.

Teaching Internship Opportunity...

With only a semester completed in college, I am overwhelmed by the number of opportunities I have had so far to further my teaching experience. I have had traditional classroom experience student teaching through my education class and so much more. Just recently I went through a thorough interview process for an internship through the National Park Service. I was overjoyed when I learned that I received an internship at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, the site of four Civil War battles. While most students apply for these internships solely because they have a passion for history, I applied not only because of my passion for history, but also because of my love for teaching. Throughout the 12-week program I will be formulating my own tour of one of the battlefields within the park and delivering it often. Though my audience will likely be much older than the high school students I plan to teach, this experience will prepare me like no other to learn how to teach history. It will be a great challenge to lead a tour to many adults who likely know much more than I do and from this, I expect to learn how to look at history differently and more analytically. My experience leading tours will be just like the experience of a teacher leading a classroom and I can't wait to see what this summer brings and how much I grow as a teacher!

“Six Traits of Successful Teachers”



What We Can Learn from Successful Teachers:

The teachers I admire most are those who remain intellectually curious and professionally vital both inside and outside the classroom for decades. They avoid stagnation at all costs and maintain an enviable passion for children and the learning process. They remain vivid in the students' memories forever because of their creativity, sense of fun, and compassion.

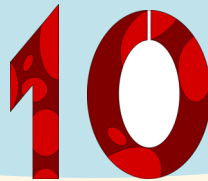
The excerpt above is taken from an article by Beth Lewis at *About Education*. Read the full article [here](#).

“Top 10 Common Teaching Mistakes for Teachers to Avoid”

People enter the teaching profession because they want to make a positive difference in society. Even teachers with the purest intentions can inadvertently complicate their mission if they're not careful.

However, new teachers (and even veterans sometimes!) will have to work hard to conscientiously avoid common pitfalls that can make the job even harder than it inherently is.

The excerpt above is taken from an article by Beth Lewis at *About Education*. Read the full article [here](#).



“Top Seven Reasons to Become a Teacher”

Teaching is more than just a job. It's a calling. It's an ever-surprising mix of grueling hard work and ecstatic successes, both big and small. The most [effective teachers](#) are in it for more than just a paycheck. They keep their energy levels up by focusing on why they [got into teaching](#) in the first place.

The top seven reasons highlighted include:



*The Energizing Environment
The Schedule
Your Personality and Humor
Job Security
Intangible Rewards
Inspiring Students
Giving Back to the Community*



The excerpt above is taken from an article by Beth Lewis at *About Education*. Read the full article [here](#).

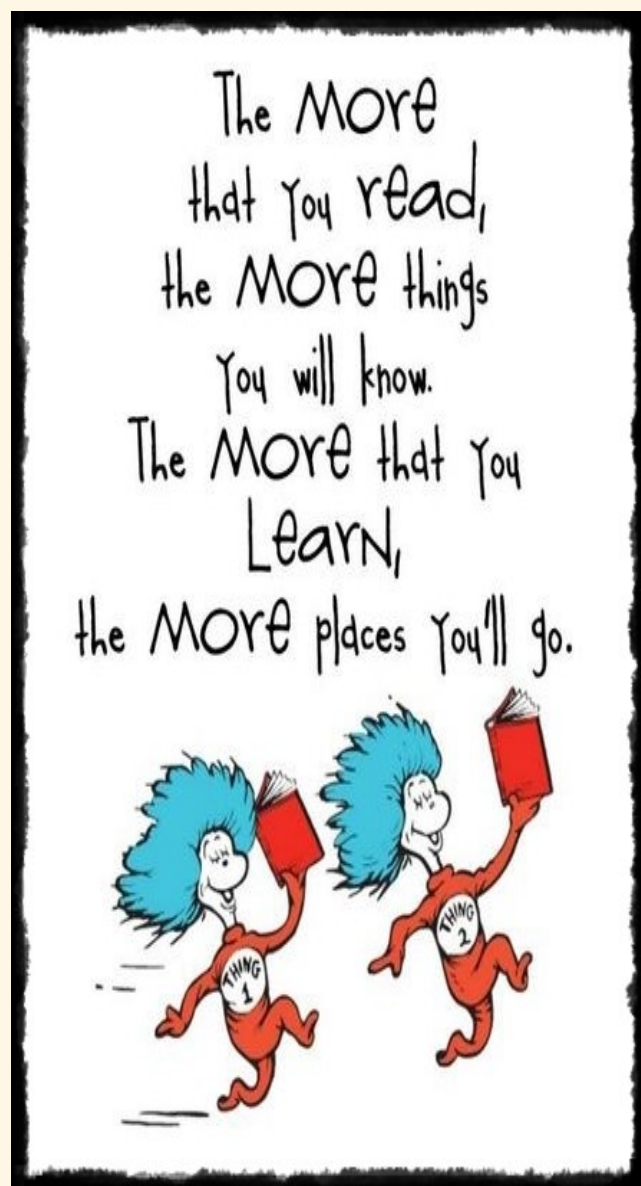
Proud to Show that they are Aspiring Teachers!

Mrs. Donna DeGraw, business education teacher at Hackettstown High School, announced that her class ordered special polo shirts for their student teaching experience. The shirts were paid for by the parents of one of the participating students.

This is a great idea for other NJFEA chapters to consider!



Mark Your Calendars! Read Across America Day is March 2, 2015



Oh, the Places You'll Go when you read!

March 2, 2015 is the National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America Day and this year, the book is the Seuss classic, *Oh, The Places You'll Go*. Start your planning and get ready to read this spring as NEA prepares a Seussational Read Across America celebration. [Find resources](#) to help make your event Seussational.

2015 Read Across America Literacy Calendar available

The 2015 Read Across America literacy calendar featuring a variety of books and literacy tips is now available in limited quantities while supplies last. The calendar features monthly books, classroom activities and tips. To order, email NEA's Read Across America at readacross@nea.org.

We Need Diverse Books!

NEA's Read Across America is proud to partner with We Need Diverse Books, the collaborative effort by diverse authors and illustrators and literacy advocates to support diversity in children and young adult literature. We participated in their Tumblr and will work with We Need Diverse Books and FirstBook for greater diversity in classroom and school libraries and book lists that celebrate diversity of all kinds. We are revamping our own booklists and finding more for you to share with students. Go to www.weneeddiversebooks.org.

Get complete information on the 2015 Read for America on the [NEA website](#).



FEA Scholarships for Future Teachers



The Future Educators Association is sponsored by [PDK International](#). One of the many ways that PDK supports FEA and fulfills its vision of cultivating great educators for tomorrow is through the [PDK Educational Foundation](#). The PDK Educational Foundation awards more than 30 scholarships each year to prospective educators who have a connection to PDK through membership in FEA or by having a family member or teacher who is a PDK member.

Applications for the 2015 [Prospective Educator Scholarship](#) are now being accepted. The deadline is April 1, 2015.

Eligible students must meet one of the following criteria:

- High school senior intending to major in education who is a member in good standing of the Future Educators Association®
- High school senior intending to major in education who is the child or grandchild of a PDK member in good standing
- High school senior intending to major in education who has one of his/her reference letters written by a PDK member in good standing
- High school senior intending to major in education whose application is selected to represent the local PDK chapter
- An undergraduate member of an FEA or PDK chapter who is enrolled in a college education program

Questions? Email scholarships@pdkintl.org.

FEA National Competitions Announced

The national Future Educators Association competitions have been revised and upgraded for 2015. We recommend these activities for NJFEA chapters and Tomorrow's Teachers course electives.



Children's Literature [Guidelines](#)
Creative Lecture (TED Talk) [Guidelines](#)
Ethical Dilemma [Guidelines](#)
Exploring Education Administration Careers [Guidelines](#)
Exploring Careers in Education Innovation [Guidelines](#)
Exploring Student Support Services Careers [Guidelines](#)
FEA Leadership Award [Guidelines](#)
FEA Moment [Guidelines](#)
Impromptu Speaking [Guidelines](#)
Inside Our Schools Presentation [Guidelines](#)
Job Interview [Guidelines](#)
Lesson Planning & Delivery – Career & Technical Education [Guidelines](#)
Lesson Planning & Delivery – Humanities [Guidelines](#)
Lesson Planning & Delivery – STEM [Guidelines](#)
Public Speaking [Guidelines](#)
Recruitment & Marketing Presentation [Guidelines](#)
Researching Learning Challenges [Guidelines](#)
Service Project Presentation [Guidelines](#)
Technology Video [Guidelines](#)



Many competitions are open for interested students to advance directly to nationals. Contact the national FEA (fea@pdkintl.org) to explore the options and see the [national FEA website](#) for more information.

Get Ready for Another Exciting Year Ahead— 2015 Preliminary Schedule of Conferences, Events, & Activities

March 13-14, 2015 – Teaching & Learning Conference, Washington, D.C.

April 16, 2015 – Believe in U “for Kids by Kids” (*for NJFEA Future Teacher Leadership Institute participants*)

April 23-26, 2015 – 26th Annual FEA National Conference: Washington, D.C.

April 24, 2015 – Applications due for the Urban Teacher Academy at The College of New Jersey

May 1, 2015 - NJFEA Service Project implementation concludes for the 2014-15 school year

June 2015 (TBD) – Final Articulation Meeting/Service Project Presentation

(*for NJFEA Future Teacher Leadership Institute participants*)

June 2, 2015 – NJFEA Southern Regional Conference, Richard Stockton College—[Conference Flyer](#)

June 9, 2015 – NJFEA Middle School Conference, The College of New Jersey

June 29-30, 2015 – Tomorrow’s Teachers Training, Fairleigh Dickinson University

July 1-2, 2015 – Tomorrow’s Teachers Training, Rider University

July 6-17, 2015 – Urban Teacher Academy at Richard Stockton College

July 6-19, 2015 – Summer Teacher Academy at Fairleigh Dickinson University—[Brochure](#)

July 13-24, 2015, Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Teacher Academy, Rider University—[Brochure](#)

July 20-31, 2015 – Urban Teacher Academy at Rowan University

July 27-August 7, 2015 – Urban Teacher Academy at The College of New Jersey

[Get the 2015 UTA Brochure and Application Now!](#)

See the Center for Future Educators website [‘Events’ page](#) for updates on conferences, events, and activities!



2014-15

NJFEA STATE OFFICERS

Eric Struble, *President*

JonBonaë’ Shipman, *Vice President*

Emily Vena, *Secretary*

Amiel Holliday, *Central Region Representative*

Sara Ruane, *Central Region Representative*

Imani Robinson, *Southern Region Representative*

Got News? Got Ideas?

Tell us what is important to you and share news about your chapter!

Email your news or ideas to: Mr. Larry Fieber, NJFEA State Director, at fieber@tcnj.edu. We will include them in our newsletter, and/or post them on the Center for Future Educators website or on the CFE -NJFEA Facebook page!

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