

Stockton to Host Conference for High School Students Interested in Becoming Teachers

Program on June 2 Features Keynote Speaker, Breakout Sessions

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Galloway Township, NJ - About 175 students and their teachers from high schools across South Jersey will attend the New Jersey Future Education Association Conference at Stockton University on **Tuesday, June 2**, aimed at encouraging students to pursue careers as educators.

Students will attend breakout sessions conducted by Stockton faculty and staff with topics including: Learning and the Brain, Making a Difference in the Lives of Students with Disabilities, the Art and Mathematics of Origami, and Teaching in an Era of New Standards and High-Stakes Testing.

The conference begins at 9:15 in the Campus Center Event Room with opening comments from Larry Fieber, director of the Center for Future Educators (CFE) at The College of New Jersey.

Dr. Shawna Bú Shell will give the keynote speech, "How Digital Natives Can Be Trendsetters in Education for the Future: We Need You!" from 9:40-10:20 a.m. Dr. Bú Shell, a graduate of Columbia University Teachers College, has spent the last 15 years teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in technology integration, faculty and staff development, and designing and implementing technology-rich programs in schools in New York City and New Jersey.

"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," according to its mission statement. CFE, which is funded by the New Jersey Education Association, works with New Jersey's high schools and middle schools, colleges and universities, corporate, governmental, and community agencies on future teacher recruitment.

"Bringing this program to Stockton allows us to build collaborative relationships with local high

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school teachers, as well as offer an opportunity for students interested in a career in teaching to network with each other,” said Dr. Meg White, assistant professor of Education, who is co-coordinating the event with Dr. Lois Spitzer, associate professor of Teacher Education.

“Participation in this program also allows high school students to meet prospective teacher-educators to gain a perspective on what they may encounter in a college classroom,” added Dr. Spitzer. “Becoming a teacher involves a lot of preparation and having contact with college professors at this pivotal point in their career planning will help them make more informed career decisions.”

There is no charge for the program, which is sponsored by New Jersey Future Educators Association. Marie Blistan, vice president of the NJEA, will be on hand to welcome the future teachers.