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### **TEACH NEW JERSEY. REACH THE WORLD. *Recruiters Target Diversity Career Fair***

Department of Education recruiters will participate September 9 in the NAACP Diversity Career Fair at the Meadowlands Expo Center in East Rutherford. The one-day event is expected to attract as many as 4,000 job candidates who are seeking employment opportunities and career guidance in a wide range of professions.

Recruiter Lori Howard will staff the Department of Education's **Booth 209** on the Expo Center floor. The recruitment theme is *Teach New Jersey. Reach the World.*

"Our recruiters will be actively engaging visitors on the many benefits and the great satisfaction they can gain by choosing a career in teaching," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "New Jersey is a great place to teach.

"We have a tremendous local and state commitment to education, and our teachers are perennially among the highest paid in the nation," Dr. Librera continued.

The Commissioner noted that New Jersey is beginning to feel the effects of a nationwide teacher shortage, and that many school districts throughout the state are seeking to fill vacancies in a wide variety of areas. Prime factors increasing the demand are higher student enrollments and an increase in the number of teachers approaching retirement age.

In response to this need, the Department of Education has established a teacher recruitment unit. The unit aggressively attends job fairs and meets with teacher candidates throughout the East Coast of the United States. The department has also established a free Internet-based hiring service, known as NJHire.com. More than 37,000 potential teachers have registered for the site, and nearly 3,100 teaching vacancies are posted each month.

Department recruiters will explain to candidates how they can teach without having majored in education in college. Candidates who hold a bachelor's degree in any subject from a four-year, accredited university are eligible to seek a teaching certificate through New Jersey's alternate route to teaching. One in every four teachers hired comes to the profession through the alternate route.

This year marks the first year that the Department of Education is participating in the NAACP Diversity Career Fair. The recruitment unit has targeted minority recruitment events throughout the year to assist school districts who are seeking to increase their percentages of minority teachers.

Upcoming recruitment visits already scheduled include: September 18, Bowie State University in Maryland; September 19, Johnson C. Smith University in North Carolina; September 24, Philadelphia Diversity Career Fair; September 25, Villanova University; September 26, St. Joseph's University; and October 1, University of Delaware.

For directions to the Meadowlands Expo Center, click on the following link:

<http://www.meadowlands-expoctr.com/>