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TEACH NEW JERSEY. REACH THE WORLD. Fall Recruitment of New Teachers in Full Swing

The teacher recruitment unit of the New Jersey Department of Education is planning to staff six major career fairs between now and December 11. The unit's primary goal is to spread the word about the many opportunities and benefits that prospective educators can reap by teaching in New Jersey's public schools.

Under the theme, *Teach New Jersey. Reach the World.* Department of Education recruiters will attend the following career fairs:

November 6: Rutgers University Newark / New Jersey Institute of Technology

November 7: New Jersey City University

November 13: Slippery Rock University Fall Teacher Fair (Slippery Rock, PA)

November 14: Central Pennsylvania Fall Teacher Job Fair (State College, PA)

December 3: MAASCUS (Middle Atlantic Association for School, College and University Staffing) Education Job Fair (Ocean City, MD)

December 11: Florida A&M University (Tallahassee, FL).

On October 31, the recruiters participated in a job fair at Temple University in Philadelphia. Since the beginning of September, the recruitment unit has participated in more than 15 career fairs.

New Jersey is beginning to feel the effects of a nationwide teacher shortage, and 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 established the 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.

Many districts are also seeking to increase their numbers of minority educators. To assist them, the recruitment unit is attending events that target minority candidates, such as the December 11 event at Florida A&M, a historically black university.

Department recruiters explain to candidates how they can teach in New Jersey, even if they did not major 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.