

# NJ FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

*Fact Sheet*

The New Jersey Future Educators Association (NJFEA) was started in 2010 to elevate the image of teaching and promote it as a challenging and rewarding career. NJFEA recognizes the need for future teachers, particularly in high shortage subjects such as math, science, technology, special education, and ESL. NJFEA also seeks future teachers for high poverty, hard-to staff schools as well as students who represent diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

As of mid-2012, there were 70 local high school and middle school NJFEA chapters where students network and engage in activities focused on teaching. Several chapters are embedded as part of a *Tomorrow's Teachers* elective course currently offered in multiple New Jersey high schools for juniors and seniors. Other NJFEA chapters meet as co-curricular after school clubs.

NJFEA is part of a national network of states that are affiliated with the Future Educators Association, overseen by Phi Delta Kappa (PDK), a professional association for educators based in Bloomington, Indiana. NJFEA is governed by its own constitution with elected student officers who represent every region of New Jersey. Membership information for FEA/NJFEA can be found at <http://www.futureeducators.org/join/join.htm>

In addition to supporting local chapter activities, NJFEA sponsors a number of statewide events including an annual fall conference for future teachers. Over 500 future teachers and their NJFEA advisers from more than 50 high schools annually register for this event. Regional NJFEA programs for high school and middle school students, student leadership trainings, and state and local service projects are planned for the 2012-13 school year. NJFEA members will also participate in, and have a booth on the convention floor of the 2012 NJEA Convention in Atlantic City where they will disseminate information for future teachers.

NJFEA members receive a subscription to Go Teach, the national FEA magazine. NJFEA officers and chapter members plan to attend the national FEA Conference on April 26-28, 2013, in Orlando, Florida, where they will seek national student offices and compete in national competitions. NJFEA annually sponsors two achievement awards for students who provide outstanding leadership and contributions to their local chapters. NJFEA members also gain recognition for academic achievements through the national FEA Honor Society. Students are additionally eligible for Prospective Educator Scholarships sponsored by PDK International.

## *Program Facts*

The number of local NJFEA chapters in New Jersey is growing! Our goal is to continue to increase the number of chapters as well as to expand on opportunities for chapter members to network and learn leadership skills.

The third cadre of student state officers of the NJFEA was elected and began their service in the summer of 2012.

NJFEA Conferences have been held at The College of New Jersey, Rowan University, Montclair State University, and Kean University, and William Paterson University.

**Laurence R. Fieber**  
State Director of NJFEA

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### **Meet the 2012-13 NJFEA State Officers:**

**Rebecca Malz**, *President*, Mahwah High School

**Mollie Miller**, *Vice President*, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South

**Jordyn Jelstrom**, *Secretary*, Lawrence High School

**Leo Ricketts**, *Northern Region Representative*, University High School

**Thomas Conley**, *Central Region Representative*, Middletown High School South

**Kayla Jerman**, *Southern Region Representative*, Burlington Township High School

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# Here's what past participants have said...

The annual statewide NJ Future Educators Association Conference is designed for high school students who aspire to become teachers. Conference participation is another forum for educating prospective future teachers and providing them with pre-professional networking opportunities to engage and interact with peers who have similar career goals.

"The NJFEA Conference was a great way to meet other students from across the state who also aspire to become teachers. I learned a lot, made friends, and got connected with others who share my dream of teaching."

—Leilani Bell, Past International Student President, Future Educators Association / Past Student Vice President, NJFEA

"This is a very important event for aspiring future educators in New Jersey — and important networking opportunity that allows you to see the enthusiasm of today's students for becoming tomorrow's teachers."

—Shelby Miller, Past President, NJFEA

"A fantastic day — students from all backgrounds and all parts of the state coming together to learn more about their path to becoming teachers. The presenters were great and gave students the chance to learn about many different aspects of teaching."

—Gina Franciosi, Past Vice President, NJFEA

"Congratulations should be extended to you and the effort you have made to make the FEA conference at TCNJ a huge success. I have shared the successful experience we had with many of my friends.... I am already looking forward to next year. Thank you for a great job. I look forward to seeing your summer program, the 'Urban [Teacher] Academy' in action. Great job!!!"

--Dr. John Kenneth Amato, Past International President of Phi Delta Kappa

"Thank you for letting me be part of the 'revolution.' It was a great experience and you should be very proud. This is a huge accomplishment." --Middle School Assistant Principal

"[We] were so honored to be part of the conference! We were not just thrilled to be presenters, but we were also inspired by the wonderful line up of speakers who were at the conference. What a powerful day! The students seemed enthusiastic about the sessions and they were just full of great questions! Thank you again for inviting us to take part in such a positive educational experience. We're already making improvements to our presentation in case you need us again next year! Thank you again."

--Elementary School Teacher and Conference Presenter

"I want to sincerely thank you for the opportunity to present yesterday. My session was filled with terrific young people, many of whom I hope will go into education as they progress into college. I thoroughly enjoyed working with them. I also want to thank you for the excellent organization of everything leading up to and including the conference. I know that future conferences will be just as great!" --Educator and Conference Presenter

"I want to thank you for inviting me to be a presenter at the NJFEA Conference. It was so inspiring to be there. I felt so very proud about being a teacher that day. I usually do, but that day was even more special. I must admit that I was a little hesitant at first, but I had a great time putting my lesson together. I was surprised at the response we got from the students. They had such a great time and were so receptive. The entire rest of the day whenever they saw me they made sure to say hello and point me out to their friends!!! It was a very rewarding day."

--Educator and Conference Presenter

