

FACT SHEET: The Woodrow Wilson New Jersey Teaching Fellowships

About the Need

- New Jersey has a significant achievement gap, and an urgent need for math and science in high-need schools:
 - For African-Americans and Latinos the four-year high school graduation rate is 67%, compared to 87% overall.
 - The percentage of New Jersey students at or above proficient on High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) in math in 2011 was 75% overall—but 47% for African-American students and 58% for Hispanic or Latino students.
 - In mathematics, only 8.1% of economically disadvantaged students scored advanced proficient compared to 31.0% of non-economically disadvantaged students scoring partially proficient and advanced proficient respectively.
 - Among District Factor Group A school districts, the state’s designation for school districts serving high-need students, the percentages at or above proficient on the HSPA in math were 70.5% for white students, 36.4% for African-American students, and 48.7% for Hispanic or Latino students.
- NJ overproduces elementary school teachers and underproduces STEM teachers.
- Teacher attrition in NJ is high: Between 30% and 40% of new teachers leave within their first three years on the job—more in the neediest districts.
- The number of Fellows produced by this program will fill most of the anticipated STEM vacancies for one year in 12 participating districts.
- **New Jersey is the first East Coast state in the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship**, which has enrolled more than 500 Fellows in three Midwestern states to date.

About the Fellowships

- The goals of the Woodrow Wilson New Jersey Teaching Fellowships are to:
 - attract the very best candidates to teaching;
 - put strong teachers into high-need schools;
 - cut teacher attrition and retain top teachers; and
 - transform university-based teacher education.
- The Fellowships recruit teachers—both recent college graduates and career changers—with strong backgrounds in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).
- Each WW New Jersey Teaching Fellow receives a \$30,000 Fellowship to complete a specially designed, cutting-edge master’s degree program, as preparation to teach in New Jersey’s high-need urban or rural secondary schools.
- Fellows commit to teach for three years in the state of New Jersey, with ongoing mentoring.
- Universities agree to redesign their teacher education programs to create model 21st-century teacher preparation.

About the Participating Institutions

- Five New Jersey colleges and universities will participate in the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship:
 - The College of New Jersey
 - Montclair State University
 - William Paterson University
 - Rowan University
 - Rutgers-Camden

These institutions were selected based on rigorous statewide review of their leadership, academic resources, commitment and capacity to create world-class program, history of work with local schools, and state of their teacher preparation programs.

- Each university will work with several priority school districts to create clinical experiences for teacher candidates:
 - The College of New Jersey: Trenton, Ewing, Lawrence, New Brunswick
 - Montclair State University: Newark, Orange, Irvington
 - William Paterson University: Paterson
 - Rowan University*: several rural Abbott districts—Vineland, Bridgton, Millville
 - Rutgers University-Camden*: Camden, Pemberton
- * *Note: Rutgers-Camden and Rowan will operate as partners; each will have responsibility in different districts, with some shared programming anticipated*

- Each participating college or university will host ten to fifteen Fellows annually.
- Each participating college or university will receive a matching grant of \$300,000 to \$400,000 (total \$1.8 million).
- The program will fund at least two cohorts (classes) of Fellows, with each pursuing a year of master's work and clinical placement, followed by ongoing mentoring during the three-year teaching commitment.
- The first Woodrow Wilson New Jersey Teaching Fellows will start their academic programs in fall 2014.

About the Funding

- Current funding totals nearly \$9 million.
- The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation (lead funder) will provide \$3 million.
- Other funding organizations providing additional support include the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the PSEG Foundation, the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, the Schumann Fund for New Jersey, Educational Testing Service, and the William E. Simon Foundation.
- Several individual New Jersey philanthropists have also made generous commitments, including M. Brian and Sandy Maher, the Overdeck Family Foundation, and Jennifer A. Chalsty.