

Press Release

CONNECTICUT LEADERS TO HEAD TO BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLASSROOMS DURING TEACH FOR AMERICA WEEK

Bridgeport, CT – April 5, 2010 - Leaders from across the city will serve as guest teachers during Teach For America Week, to be held April 5-16. Confirmed participants include: Maria Pereira, Bridgeport Board of Education member; and Maury Povich, talk show host of "Maury;" and Kelli Wells, U.S. Education Program Officer for GE Foundation.

The guest teaching schedule is as follows:

Barnum School - Wednesday, April 7 from 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Maury Povich, Talk Show Host of "Maury"

Teacher/corps member: Marty Fried (grade 7/8 science)

Geraldine Johnson School - Thursday, April 8 from 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Kelli Wells, U.S. Education Program Officer for GE Foundation

Teacher/corps member: Erica Svendsen (grade 8 science)

Barnum School - Friday, April 9 from 12:45 – 2:15 p.m.

Maria Pereira, Bridgeport Board of Education Member

Teacher/corps member: Amy Medina (grade 5)

Teach For America Week draws community leaders nationwide to support educational excellence for all children. These volunteers will visit the classrooms of Teach For America teachers, also known as corps members, and teach lessons based on their experience in business, politics, and beyond. An annual event since 1997, Teach For America Week will take place in 30 regions across the country in 2010.

"We're excited about the broad range of leaders participating in Teach For America Week this year," said Edna Novak, executive director of Teach For America in Connecticut. "By sharing their expertise in classrooms across the

region, these accomplished individuals will make a lasting impression on hundreds of students and help to focus attention on the importance of providing all children with the educational opportunities they deserve.”

Teach For America is the national corps of top recent college graduates who commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to expand educational opportunity. Teach For America’s network includes 7,300 corps members teaching in 35 regions and a national force of 17,000 alumni at the forefront of efforts to end educational inequity.

This year in Connecticut, nearly 160 Teach For America corps members are reaching approximately 9,000 students in underserved schools while more than 200 alumni in the state are working from every sector to level the playing field for students and families in low-income communities.

A growing body of rigorous research demonstrates the effectiveness of Teach For America corps members as classroom teachers. A 2008 Urban Institute study updated last year found that corps members have a positive effect on student achievement relative to other teachers, including experienced teachers, traditionally prepared teachers, and those fully certified in their field. An earlier study by Mathematica Policy Research found that students of corps members make 10 percent more progress in a year in math than is typically expected and slightly exceed the normal expectation for progress in reading.

About Teach For America and Teach For America Week

Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in expanding educational opportunity. Teach For America Week is the annual, nationwide event in which guest teachers engage students from some of our nation’s lowest-income communities and inspire them to pursue academic success. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org.

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