



**Today's  
Students**  
**Tomorrow's  
Teachers™**

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Frank Pagani  
(914) 843-5079  
Frank@PaganiPR.com

**Dr. Bettye H. Perkins, Founder and CEO  
Of Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers,™  
To Receive Community Service Award  
From Westchester County Democratic Committee**

***Will be Recognized for Creating and Implementing Successful  
Teacher of Color Mentoring Program that Has Strengthened  
Communities in Westchester and Elsewhere in Four States***

**White Plains, NY (June 15, 2015)** Dr. Bettye H. Perkins, Founder, President and CEO of Today's Students Tomorrow Teachers™ (TSTT), will be honored by the Westchester County Democratic Committee (WCDC) when she receives the prestigious Community Service Award at the Annual Dinner Gala, June 18. More than 400 distinguished guests will be on hand at the V.I.P. Country Club, New Rochelle, NY, to congratulate Dr. Perkins.

**Reginald A. LaFayette**, Chairman of the WCDC, said Dr. Perkins will be recognized for developing and implementing a “groundbreaking, viable and proven teacher mentoring program that is addressing the serious teacher of color shortage in America’s classrooms, and in so doing, strengthening communities.”

To date, TSTT’s pioneering approach has resulted in more than 150 TSTT alumni teachers who are making a difference in the lives of more than 115,000

students in 10 states, and a pipeline of some 800 high school and college students.

He added: “We applaud Dr. Perkins on her visionary leadership in having established TSTT 20 years ago here in Westchester, a remarkable non-profit with a collaborative mentoring model between high school districts, colleges and the private sector that has inspired, encouraged and supported high school students in underserved communities to pursue the noble profession of teaching. This approach is both addressing the serious teacher diversity shortage and opening the doors of economic opportunities to many young people in our communities.”

Mr. LaFayette noted: “What is especially impressive about the work of Dr. Perkins and TSTT is that the teacher mentoring program has been successfully replicated in several Westchester school districts as well as in the New York metro region, upstate, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Virginia and is recognized by prominent educators and policy makers as a viable model to help close the teacher of color gap.”

Dr. Perkins, who has long been honored for her achievements in educational leadership, said: “I am especially honored to receive this award from the Westchester County Democratic Committee because it was here in Westchester in the Ossining School District where our collaborative teacher mentoring concept was launched and bore fruit by inspiring and guiding young students to become students, and in so doing, strengthen our communities. And it is here where our next significant initiative is unfolding—the Male Teacher of Color Initiative.”

She continued: “Having the support of this committee, whose influential political leadership ranges from every city, town and village of the county as well as to some of the highest levels in the U.S. Congress, will be instrumental to the

success of our mission. Collectively, you share our concern that the growing gap between the student of color population in K-12 classrooms projected to be more than 50% this fall—and teachers of color accounting for just 13% of the teacher population— is unacceptable and threatens our country’s future at home and on the world stage. Solutions will not be easy to close this achievement gap, reduce the dropout rate and enrich our schools in ways that will positively impact generations to come. It will take hard work, smart policy and above all, the political will that I know you can and will demonstrate in keeping with the finest tradition of the Democratic Party.”

“On behalf of the TSTT community, I express deepest thanks and gratitude for your Community Service Award.”

Dr. Perkins’ latest honor follows on the heels of TSTT’s recent 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Strengthening the Vision” Recognition Breakfast and Diversity in Education Forum when the organization’s new Male Teacher of Color Initiative was announced. Coincidentally, just a few days later, **President Barack Obama** made public the details of his **My Brother’s Keeper Alliance** aimed at the same demographic group.

Like the President’s Alliance, TSTT’s Male Teacher of Color Initiative is focused on education as the answer to achieving economic stability. Dr. Perkins said: “We are going to accomplish that by attracting, preparing and financially supporting young African-American and Latino boys in under-served communities with college tuition scholarships to become tomorrow’s teachers who are caring, competent and committed to their students.”

The initiative, which is underway with a cohort of 50 students in Westchester, will continue in New York City later this year. It has gained the support of **Michael Mulgrew**, President of the United Federation of Teachers and Congressman **James E. Clyburn** of the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, South Carolina.

Congressman Clyburn also served as Honorary Chair of TSTT's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

Among Dr. Perkins' many other accolades have been the Special Parent Honoree Award from the New York State Education Department, the Pathfinder Award from the New York State Association of Women in Administration, the Milton A. Williams, Jr. Scholars in Education Award from the Westchester Children's Museum; the Trailblazer Award by the NY Chamber of Commerce and the Distinguished Service Award from the Westchester County Executive's Office.

An educator and former IBM executive, Dr. Perkins is a sought-after speaker who served as a panelist at the 2015 Teacher & Learning Conference presented by the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards held in Washington, D.C. She has also been featured for her landmark work by several national and local media outlets including the New York Times, Boston Globe and the Journal News.

***About Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers™***

TSTT is an innovative career development model that addresses teacher shortages by recruiting culturally diverse and economically challenged high school students, mentors and trains them throughout college, and then helps place them as effective teachers in schools in their communities.

TSTT was founded in 1994 by Dr. Bettye H. Perkins, President and Chief Executive Officer. as an early teacher preparation program. According to Dr. Perkins, "Our goal is to close the achievement gap and to ensure that these deserving young people will ultimately be equipped to become highly effective teachers, role models, and leaders in their communities."

For more information visit: [www.tstt.org](http://www.tstt.org).