



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

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers™ (TSTT) Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Mentoring Program In Rochester Region**

***JPMorgan Chase Honored with Legacy Award for Funding  
The First Replication of TSTT's Mentoring Program in Rochester  
and Subsequent Successful Expansion in Four States***

**Non-Profit Organization Announces Details of its New  
*Male Teacher of Color Initiative***

**Rochester, NY (May 30, 2015)** Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers™ (TSTT) recently celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its pioneering teacher mentoring program in the Rochester region that has been successfully addressing the serious teacher diversity shortage.

The Rochester Region was the first that TSTT established in the 2004-2005 school year.

The milestone celebration with distinguished guests including prominent educators, business leaders, parents, community supporters as well as TSTT alumni, and college and high school students in the program, was held at the Burgundy Basin Inn in Rochester.

**Prudence Wilson**, TSTT Regional Program Manager, noted: “TSTT’s Rochester Region is extremely proud of 10 years of helping to prepare students for a career in education. During this period, 15 school districts have partnered with TSTT in providing experiences and opportunities which helped students to become teachers.”

**Dr. Bettye H. Perkins**, TSTT’s Founder, CEO and President, said: “This is a defining moment for our organization because we are not only celebrating a decade of great progress in helping to close the diversity gap in Rochester’s classrooms but the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TSTT making a significant impact across the nation. Together with Rochester, we have demonstrated that our viable collaborative model can be replicated in school districts across the U.S. to help attract and mentor high school students of color to become the next generation of caring, competent and committed teachers who will serve as role models and fire the imaginations of students.”

Dr. Perkins noted that TSTT’s success— which to date has resulted in 150 TSTT alumni teachers inspiring more than 115,000 students in 10 states and a pipeline of more than 800 high school students participating in programs in four states— would not have been possible without the generosity of corporate and individual supporters. “We are especially grateful to JPMorgan Chase, which we are honoring with the **Legacy Award**, for having funded the original TSTT replication and expansion here in Rochester. That support created the foundation that enabled TSTT to replicate programs in school districts in four states: New York, Connecticut, Virginia and Massachusetts.”

TSTT also presented **Pioneer Awards**, a new category of honors, to the first two school districts that supported TSTT’s mission and vision since the program’s inception in Rochester. The honorees were West Irondequoit Central School District whose Superintendent **Jeffrey Crane**, accepted the award and

Wheatland Chili School District which was represented by Superintendent **Dr. Deborah Leh.**

The guest speakers were **Tom Gallagher**, past Superintendent for Wheatland Chili School District and Chair of the Rochester Region Advisory Council for five years, and **Marysa Cooper**, TSTT alumni, graduate of Victor High School and Keuka College. Ms. Cooper is presently a teacher at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School in Rochester.

Underscoring TSTT's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Strengthening the Vision" theme, Dr. Perkins announced details of the organization's new *Male Teacher of Color Initiative*. "It is intended to balance what is essentially a glaring and unacceptable discrepancy in America's classrooms," she explained, adding: "Among the nation's 3.5 million teachers, only 13 percent are teachers of color and less than 3 percent are men of color. We need more male African-American, Hispanic role models at the head of the classroom to motivate and inspire students to follow the path to success," she declared.

Rochester launched its Male Teacher of Color Initiative in 2012 with the support of JPMorgan Chase. Ten participants in the Leadership Academy for Young Men were identified and became the first cohort of mentees. This year, six will graduate and four will pursue a career in education.

**Kevin Vellon**, President and Valedictorian of his class, noted how the program helped keep him on track and prepared him for college.

Awards and certificates were presented to high school seniors and the college seniors were inducted into the TSTT Hall of Fame. Special thanks were extended to teacher/college mentors, superintendents, principals, BOCES staff—all who have helped make TSTT a successful program.

**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).