

Thrive!

WINTER 2003

TSTT • A CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS



Today's
Students
Tomorrow's
Teachers

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Passion for Perfection

Teacher mentors keep the TSTT program together for the students' benefit through their commitment and enthusiasm.



Teacher Mentors pictured here, standing left to right: Selma Dias-Stewart, Monifa Tippitt, Bonnie Johnson, Alyce Loesch, Manny Stein, Madlyn Phelan, Serge Azor, Linda Davis, Ludy Morales Riveria, and Wendy Rosen. Seated left to right: Mary Lou Montalto, Lukumanu Mohammed, Tracy Smith, Dr. Bettye Perkins, Nancy Durant, Shauntier Yates and Ron Irwin.

Some are classroom teachers and some are guidance counselors. They are the most consistent "face" of TSTT to the students through monthly workshops, frequent meetings, and participation in college visits, TSTT ceremonies and special events. They all have something in common: a commitment to sharing their knowledge and their passion for educating young people.

"Teacher mentors are the glue that holds the TSTT program together at the high school level," emphasizes Dr. Bettye Perkins, TSTT's executive director. "They provide the direct services to TSTT students and the sig-

nificant adult relationship that all adolescents need to be successful."

Teacher mentors are nominated and selected by the school district because they are role model teachers for their TSTT students, and it's an honor to be chosen. Each teacher is then oriented to TSTT's goals and expectations, and they, in turn, recruit and connect with TSTT students in ways they believe will be most effective.

Through the years, students have cited their tutoring internship as the most valuable service provided by the TSTT program. It is the responsibility of the teacher

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TODAY'S STUDENTS, TOMORROW'S TEACHERS

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Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers program mission is to address the shortage of teachers, expand the pool of minority teachers, encourage students to enter the teaching profession and provide academic enrichment.

TSTT is an independent, tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. All contributions to TSTT are tax-deductible to the extent of the law. As a not-for-profit, educational organization, TSTT is eligible for corporate matching-gift programs.

TAKING STOCK

Success in Numbers. The 2002-2003 school year is well underway and I'm very pleased to report that in our ninth year we are

well positioned for another successful year for the TSTT organization. Our 'numbers' continue to dramatically increase across the board—in participating school districts, in student enrollments, and in corporate sponsorships and community support.

This year we welcomed Tarrytown and Tuckahoe, two new school district partnerships that have joined our ranks, bringing our current high school enrollment to an all-time high of 151. Another 162 students are now matriculating at 35 colleges across the country. And what better confirmation that the TSTT program works than to have four more TSTT students enter the ranks of teaching in schools in Westchester County this past fall 2002, with an additional 10 students scheduled to become teachers this fall!

And where would the TSTT program be without our cadre of wonderful teacher mentors—now numbering 27—whose commitment, passion and compassion are helping our high school students on the path to realizing their own dreams of becoming teachers.

Moreover, although in the midst of an economic downturn, we continue to receive the support of corporations and



foundations that share our vision. We are extremely grateful for their endorsement of our mission.

Finally, we couldn't be prouder of what our TSTT students have accomplished, and as we look ahead to a full schedule of exciting programs planned for the second half of the school year, we know that the best is yet to come!

We wish you all a healthy and happy New Year!

Bettye H. Perkins, Ed. D.
Executive Director

Participating High Schools

2002-2003

PUTNAM/WESTCHESTER

Bedford (Fox Lane) • Greenburgh
(Woodlands) • Greenburgh (North Castle)
• Hendrick Hudson • Katonah-Lewisboro
(John Jay) • Lakeland/Walter Panas
Mount Vernon • New Rochelle
Ossining • Peekskill • Tarrytown
Tuckahoe • White Plains • Yonkers

ROCKLAND

East Ramapo (Ramapo/Spring Valley) • Nyack

ULSTER

Ellenville

FAIRFIELD, CT

Stamford • Westhill
Academy of Information and Technology

Colleges/Universities providing scholarships

2002-2003

College of New Rochelle
Fordham University
Gordon College
Iona College
Manhattan College
Manhattanville College
Marist College
Marymount College
Mercy College
Pace University
St. Thomas Aquinas College
SUNY at Albany
Syracuse University
Texas College
University of Connecticut

TSTT Blackboard

The Gift of Giving

J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation has awarded TSTT with a grant of \$25,000 as part of the Foundation's Pre-Collegiate Education Grant Program.

"Public education is a concern of all who care about our society and its future," says Martha Graham, vice president, corporate social responsibility of the J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation. There are many ways to contribute to strong schools, but we think one of the best ways to support them is to help prepare teachers who will reach many generations of children. That is why the J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation is proud to support Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers."

"In a year of an economic downturn for many corporations, J.P. Morgan Chase truly stands out as a corporation committed to educational programs that help our young people," comments Dr. Bettye Perkins, TSTT executive director.



From left to right: TSTT student Juan Chalco of Sleepy Hollow High School, Dr. Bettye Perkins, TSTT, and Martha Graham, J.P. Morgan Chase.

Charting the Course

The **TSTT Board of Directors** held a strategic planning session in November 2002 led by the Delphi Consulting Group, which was a follow-up to a session held in October 1999. The Board of Directors is well on its way to meeting many of the long-term objectives that it has established, among them, to increase TSTT funding and increase student enrollment.

Elzeria Barnes, in her second year as president of the TSTT Board of Directors, reports, "The business community believes in TSTT and as sponsors continues to commit funds to ensure the program moves forward successfully. TSTT student enrollment is at an all-time high, and new school districts are coming on board every year."

Just call her Doctor B

Bettye Perkins, TSTT's executive director, now has another title before her name: Dr. In December 2002, she was awarded her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership, Administration and Policy from Fordham University. Her dissertation was about the TSTT collaborative partnership model that she developed and has successfully implemented for the past nine years.

"It was important to document the TSTT model because of the unique collaboration that exists among our TSTT partners," said Dr. Perkins. "TSTT is successful because of the strong support given by our school districts, colleges, parents, businesses, and communities, and most of all, our students."

Ode to TSTT

Congratulations to Janae Kee, an 8th grader at A.B. Davis Middle School in Mount Vernon who is tutored by a TSTT student at Mount Vernon High School, for winning the TSTT Poem Contest. She will receive a Pentium II computer with a color inkjet printer and a 17-inch monitor donated to TSTT through Per Scholas (a non-profit organization that brings computers to technologically deprived families and children at the lowest possible cost). Here's her winning entry:

TSTT has helped me a lot
Their support allowed me
To keep running after my dreams
Never to stop.

The people who encouraged me to succeed
Are the mentors
Who truly care for me.

Initially, my grades were poor
But TSTT helped me improve
Week by week, more and more.

My self-esteem has increased
Bit by bit and now
I've gone too far to quit.

TSTT is the place to be
They do more than help you succeed.
They bring out your true identity.

Thank you TSTT for allowing
God to use you
For now there is hope for our youth
Because of people just like you.

TSTT 2003 Calendar

February 7	College Visit	Marist/Mercy Colleges
February 28	College Visit	Iona/Fordham
March 7	Invest in Success (African American Focus)	Manhattanville College
March 12	Tutor Training II	Manhattanville College
April 4	College Visit	St. Thomas Aquinas/Manhattan
May 1	Superintendent's Breakfast	Tarrytown Hilton
May 20	FEA Induction Ceremony	Manhattanville College
June 5	Career Development Workshop II	Manhattanville College

Students in the News

Wismin Joseph, a TSTT student and senior at Westhill High School in Stamford, was chosen to present to Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman an honorarium for a civic participation program during an assembly program held at the school last fall.

Brienne Karow, a senior at Ellenville High School who competed at the Empire Games in 2002, is New York State champion in discus.

Passion for Perfection

continued from page 1

mentor to place students in their internship by matching their interests with teachers with whom they can shadow. This is a role that is crucial to the students' and the program's success.

Teacher mentors have nothing but high praise for the TSTT program. They say it is valuable, exciting and beneficial to their student population, and they believe it will increase the number of minority teachers in front of classrooms throughout the Metropolitan area.

"The greatest satisfaction being a teacher mentor is watching the TSTT students grow and become what their aspirations have led them to be," says Linda



Teacher Mentor, **Linda Davis**

Davis, a veteran special education teacher who currently teaches collaborative history and mainstream english to 11th graders at Walter Panas High School in Cortland Manor, New York.

She has mentored over 20 students throughout her seven-year involvement with TSTT. "My job is to help the students avail themselves of opportunities and avenues open to them—like college—and to keep them working toward their goal," Linda explains. "The program shows them a different way of life." One of Linda's TSTT students, Letitia Payne, is currently a first-year teacher in the Ossining School District. "She is the first fruit of our labor and we're very proud of her," Linda points out.

As a teacher mentor, Linda says that maintaining contact with the students as well as with school personnel is vital for her to know how they're doing. "Contact

with the guidance counselor and individual teachers is necessary so they can help if there is a problem," she relates.

As long as she has the energy and her district supports the TSTT program, Linda says she will continue to be a teacher mentor. "I feel strongly about the program, and that it opens doors for good young people to be the future."

For Bonnie Johnson, being a teacher mentor was presented as a wonderful opportunity to help students become teachers. It was a chance she jumped at. "It's gratifying when the students get excited because it gets me excited," she says. "Through TSTT I can see the light in their eyes as they realize they can be what they want to be."

An English teacher at Ramapo High School in Spring Valley, New York, in her four years as a TSTT teacher mentor Bonnie has been involved with more than two-dozen students. "No one is teaching yet, but no one has dropped out of the program either," she reports.

Her advice to other teacher mentors is to choose their students carefully "because TSTT is not a good fit for everyone," she explains. "The work is very hard for the students. Also, teacher mentors shouldn't expect the program to run on its own because it requires many hours of work and a lot of one-on-ones to get the students on the same page where they need to be. My school administration has been very supportive of the program, which is necessary for success."

She may be new to the TSTT program, but she has been teaching for 25 years, the last 18 years in the Stamford, Connecticut school system where she now teaches advanced history to juniors and seniors at Westhill High School.

"I was involved in Future Teachers of America when I was a student because I knew I wanted to be a teacher," Alyce Loesch recalls. "So when I saw an advertisement for TSTT, I knew I wanted to do it. I was blown away by the program and the organization, which are magnificent."

Westhill High School joined the TSTT program last year with eight students and had to turn others away. Six of Alyce's eight students will graduate this year.

Alyce reports that being a teacher mentor is extremely gratifying because of



Teacher Mentor, **Bonnie Johnson**

what the students are doing. "They've done job-shadowing. They have also decided to run a writing contest for grades one through five, for which they are creating topics." She also tries to think of engaging activities for them such as the two "teacher talks" she holds each school year where "we serve coffee and cookies and I invite other teachers to talk to the students about the whole process of being a teacher," she explains. "In addition, Stamford runs a program for new teachers, and I'm trying to get my TSTT students involved as observers to expose them more intimately to the professional world of teaching. It is exciting to see them enjoy the concept of being an educator.

"It is important," Alyce continues, "to make students understand how much has been invested in them, and that it is an honor and a privilege to be selected to participate in the TSTT program. It ups the ante and their accountability.

"We need good teachers and people who think teaching is important," Alyce concludes. "The TSTT program allows students to develop a passion for the craft of teaching." ■



Teacher Mentor, **Alyce Loesch**

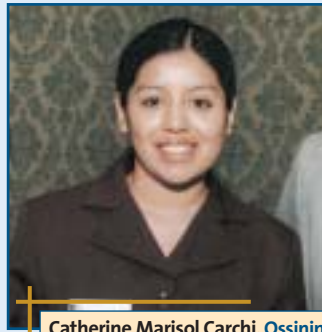
Real Class Acts



Maribel Carchi, Ossining



Letitia Payne, Ossining



Catherine Marisol Carchi, Ossining



Jeffrey Cole, Bedford Hills

Four TSTT students recently made the transition into the teaching ranks, thanks to the TSTT program that has supported them throughout high school and college. Here's what the former TSTT students have to say about their teaching experience. "It's a learning experience everyday," says Maribel Carchi, a graduate of Haldane High School and Marist College, who is teaching Life Sciences to seventh graders in the Ossining school system. "The real world is totally different than what you expect—my students and I learn from each other every day."

Maribel says her first year has been trial and error as she gets used to the kids, but credits the other teachers and staff for their terrific support and encouragement. And that goes for TSTT as well. "TSTT guided us through the whole process and transition through college, looked out for us and helped us succeed."

Manhattanville College and Walter Panas High School graduate Letitia Payne, who is a first-year special educa-

tion teacher for grades sixth through eighth in Ossining, certainly agrees. "It's not just teaching," she says. "The hardest part for me is not having my own classroom, but you learn to adjust. I love my colleagues who have been very supportive, as has the school in general. They have consultants who come in to coach us, and there's always someone to talk to in the Ossining school district."

Letitia credits TSTT with making her dream possible, and encourages other students to "network and get as much experience as you can by tutoring or by being a teaching assistant to get exposure to the classroom. That experience is invaluable."

Catherine Marisol Carchi, a Marist College and Haldane High School graduate, who is now teaching biology to ninth graders at Ossining High School, says, "It's been a very interesting experience. I'm teaching biology but working with kids who have all kinds of behavioral, social and emotional problems. So it is not just teaching biology."

Catherine offers words of advice for

others entering the profession. "Make sure you are committed and that you're ready for it. It's not just teaching a subject—it's all that goes on in a high school. Be prepared for everything!"

The most difficult part of the first year of teaching, according to Jeffrey Cole, a Manhattanville College graduate with a B.A. in music and a Master in elementary and special education, "is having to develop lesson plans from scratch." Jeffrey teaches music to 21 third graders at Bedford Hills Elementary School, which he finds very rewarding. "I've also learned to expect the unexpected. My advise to other would-be teachers is to think seriously about planning and organizing your whole year. Also, be patient, listen to the people around you and take advantage of the services they are offering because they won't be around all the time."

"It's been a pleasure working in Bedford Hills because everyone has been very supportive," Jeffrey adds. "I would not be here if it were not for TSTT. I owe them everything." ■

New Schools, New Excitement

TSTT is pleased to welcome two new schools—Tarrytown and Tuckahoe—as participating school districts for the 2002-2003 school year.

Five students from Tarrytown High School are fortunate to be able to participate in and benefit from their experience with TSTT. "We felt we had many very talented candidates among our Hispanic student population who were a natural fit with TSTT," explains Dr. Howard W. Smith, superintendent of the Tarrytown UF School District. "So we treated it as a competition for the spots, and made sure everyone understood that teaching is a demanding profession. They went through an intense selection process, and those chosen were truly deserving. We're very

pleased with the TSTT program, which meshes well with other programs the students are involved with."

"It's important to nurture students who are interested in pursuing a career in teaching," suggests Dr. Michael Yazurlo, superintendent of Tuckahoe UF School District, which has two junior high school students in the TSTT program for the first time this year. "The field of education needs highly motivated, energetic and creative people. If you reach out and motivate them in high school with a program like TSTT, when they become teachers their students will benefit greatly. We think that once the word gets out and students understand the benefits of the program—and we find more funding—our participation will surely increase." ■

A Good Place to Start

**“There is no greater calling than affecting the lives of young people.
No calling more vital to democracy than teaching.**

As an educator and teacher, I cannot remember ever regretting

going into the field of education.”

These inspirational words spoken by Brenda Smith, acting superintendent of the Mount Vernon Public Schools, set the tone for Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers' annual Student Orientation at Pace University

in Pleasantville last October to kick-off the 2002-2003 school year.

Throughout the afternoon, the assembly of new and continuing high school students, teacher mentors, educators, and all involved in the groundbreaking TSTT program, were given an overview of the program and treated to a series of informative and educational workshops.

Mitch Weisburgh, president of College Pilot, an Internet-based SAT prep course, and Saad Siddiqui of Kaplan SAT Courses, both TSTT partner companies, explained their free services to high-school students. Vanessa Kilpatrick of TSTT and Frank Samuel of Mercy College laid out the college application process and financial aid guidelines; Lynn Bryant of TSTT and Tony Avilez of Fitness ems/Communications led new students in a tutoring and mentoring workshop; Marc Hoberman of GrAdeSuccess, Inc., took continuing students through a leadership workshop; and teacher mentors expressed their points of view in a lively roundtable discussion.

Dr. Bettye Perkins, executive director of TSTT, charged students, “You should be very proud of being selected to participate in the TSTT program. We will be here to support you from this day until you become a teacher—that is our commitment to you.” ■



Westhill High School

Standing left to right: **Asheley Victorin**, Teacher Mentor **Alyce Loesch** and **Max Lotstein**. Seated left to right: **Melissa Angeles**, **Jose Diaz**, **Zongqi Zhou**, **Fatima Ayoub** and **Stephanie Morency**.



Peekskill High School

Standing left to right: **Carlos Baudett**, **Amanda O'Donnell**, **Brian Archer**, **Michelle Tachine**, Teacher Mentor **Selma Dias-Stewart**, **Angela Urena**, **Joseph Kalata**, **Ashley Scott** and **Daniel Calabro**. Seated left to right: **Whitney Campbell**, **Kevin Buckiewicz**, **Cassandra Scott**, **Amanda Smith**, **Ashley Lape**, **Kim Darling** and **Simone Finley**.



Fox Lane High School

Standing left to right: **Karen Almonacid**, **Adrianna Ducoz**, **Ibeth Williams**, Teacher Mentor **Serge Azor**, **Sekina Robinson**, **Amy Nunez**. Seated left to right: **Joann Koziol**, **Kristen Schermerhorn**, **Kristin Guest** and **Veronica Sanchez**.



Mount Vernon High School

Left to right: **Antoinette Watkins**, **Marian Hester**, **Jessica Hilton**, Acting Superintendent **Brenda Smith** and **Dorcas Dennis**. Not pictured: Teacher Mentor **Zeldia Woodard**.



John Jay High School

Left to right: Teacher Mentor **Marcia Kallon**, **Osato Ukponmwan** and **Rosalyn McCaine**.



Ellenville High School

Standing left to right: Teacher Mentor **Madlyn Phelan** and **Juan Garcia**. Seated left to right: **Samantha Ellis**, **Jennifer Prado**, **Brienne Karow** and **Lian Bittencourth**.



Nyack High School

Left to right: Ashley Dawson, Ray Watson, Paris Suber, Teacher Mentor Tracy Smith, Damiyr Brownlee and Adrienne King.



Greenburgh (Woodlands High School)

Left to right: Nichole Holmes, Teacher Mentors Monifa Tippitt and Nancy Durant, Lendel Marshall, Wilda Martin and Megan Cornell.



New Rochelle High School

Standing left to right: Ekene Ndubuisi, Hamarie Richards, Teacher Mentor Mary Lou Montalto, Fatima Barry and Kenyatta Smith-Jackson. Seated left to right: Latisha Neil and Ahehsa James.



Academy of Information and Technology

Left to right: Kadie Mitchell, Keisha Domond, Teacher Mentor Shauntier Yates and Sedera Jones.



Spring Valley High School

Standing left to right: Manny Stein, Derrick Pittman, Jennifer Bryant, Danielle Thompson and Masha Arius. Seated left to right: Dyna Laurent, Teacher Mentor Wendy Rosen and Astride Charles.



Stamford High School

Left to right: Rachel Knox, Dorothy Taffet, Stephanie Catlyn, Teacher Mentor Maria Cahill, Amy Norton and Fatima Toor.



Walter Panas High School

Left to right: Krystin Boyce, Terrel Brannigan, Teacher Mentor Linda Davis, Joe Pascarelli and Brandon Harris.



Ramapo High School

Standing left to right: Jaonne Jean-Louis, Lily Alvarado, Aniel Samaroo, Christina Joseph, and Dona Pierre. Seated left to right: Manny Stein, Suganthi Thirunavularasu, Curtia Whitehead, Teacher Mentor Bonnie Johnson, Leslie Ramirez, Lucinda Noel and Synthia Green.



Greenburgh (North Castle High School)

Standing left to right: Carlett McMichael, Jean Denis, Syrceta Pricel, Teacher Mentor Lukumanu Mohammed and Ariana Velencia. Seated left to right: Adona Adriene and Shakeela Daniels.



Ossining High School

Left to right: Mirian Mita, Patricia Pires, Teacher Mentor Ludy Morales Riveria, Andres Dejesus and Tara Winkler.

Participating School Districts not pictured: **Hendrick Hudson**, Teacher Mentor Joe Spero; **Tarrytown**, Teacher Mentors Eudal Collado and Deborah Hardy; **Tuckahoe**, Teacher Mentors Edythe Horn and Diane Mitchell; **White Plains**, Teacher Mentor Jawanda M. Spears; **Yonkers**, Teacher Mentor Kathleen Ryan.

“All Aboard—Next Stop College!”

The importance of seeing a college up close and personal cannot be underestimated. It is often the determining factor in the TSTT student's decision as to where to spend their next four years fulfilling the requirements necessary to realize their teaching dream.

Throughout the school year, TSTT offers students an opportunity to visit TSTT college partners to get a first-hand look at the environment and services as well as programs geared for students pursuing a degree in education.

This past November, 23 students who are interested in attending Syracuse University were treated to an overnight college visit at Syracuse University. Accompanied by six teacher mentors and TSTT program manager, Lynn Bryant, the group was met by Ampara Silva, assistant director of admissions at Syracuse, who

was instrumental in setting up the campus visit, and provided the students with comprehensive information sessions and an extensive campus tour.

The result? Seven students who hadn't considered Syracuse were so

impressed with the school in general, and, specifically, with its four-year dual program in education incorporating special education within the elementary and secondary education curriculum, they have decided to apply. Good luck to all. ■



TSTT Students visit Syracuse University in November 2002



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