



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



For Immediate Release

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Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers and Seton Hall University Announce Partnership to Develop Pipeline Of Students of Color to Pursue Teaching Professions

Represents TSTT's First College Partner in New Jersey

White Plains, NY and South Orange, NJ (September 18, 2017) Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT), one the nation's leading teacher diversity mentoring programs and Seton Hall University, ranked as one of the top Catholic universities, today announced a partnership to help expand a pipeline of students of color to pursue teaching professions.

Noted educator **Dr. Bettye H. Perkins**, founder, President and CEO of TSTT and **Dr. Mary Meehan**, interim President of Seton Hall, participated in a signing ceremony at which it was announced that the partnership will go into effect next August with the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

Seton Hall marks TSTT's 25th college partner and its first in New Jersey since the landmark teacher mentoring non-profit was launched 23 years to help address the critical teacher diversity gap in the nation's classrooms.

Drs. Perkins and Meehan were joined by distinguished guests including prominent educators, business, government and community leaders.

Symbolizing the partnership's goal, also present were 10 promising high school students of color who have been mentored by TSTT. They hail from high schools in Ulster and Sullivan Counties in New York, among the regions in four states where TSTT programs have been well underway.

The aspiring young teachers toured Seton Hall in the morning and learned about the campus, its College of Education and Human Services and financial aid opportunities, among the first steps they will be taking in their senior year to explore the college admissions process for teaching careers.

Dr. Perkins said that TSTT was honored to partner with the prestigious Seton Hall University "which has a distinguished history of academic excellence including its renowned College of Education and Human Services and is a champion of diversity," adding: "This is truly a very exciting development that will provide TSTT's economically challenged students with the opportunity to expand their horizons and enrich their life's experiences by journeying from their hometowns to study at this great college and thrive in a culturally stimulating and challenging educational environment. They will also be provided with meaningful financial support so that they are not saddled with debt when they graduate from college and pursue their dreams to be at the head of the classroom."

She continued: "As the first member of my African-American family who came of age in the segregated South to graduate from college, I personally understand

and appreciate the enormous power that opportunities like these offered through this partnership will have in unleashing the potential of young people.”

Dr. Maureen Gillette, Dean of Seton Hall’s College of Education and Human Services, stated: “As the first university in New Jersey to commit to this partnership with TSTT, Seton Hall is proud to welcome a new generation of academically strong and culturally diverse students to fulfill the promise of community-based teaching candidates who will take their skills and passion back into their home communities to teach.”

Drawing from her personal experience, Dr. Gillette noted, “When I was teaching sixth grade in a Catholic school in my home town, about 30 percent of my students were African-American or Latino. Our society is still struggling to implement the vision of Civil Rights reformers and the ideals of equity and justice for all. I passionately believe in community-based education and ensuring that each and every child, but especially those children who are learning in our nation's most challenged schools, get an education that will allow them to reach their goals in life, and positively contribute to society.”

Among the services that TSTT will provide to Seton Hall are academic support, career guidance and additive preparation to TSTT/Seton Hall students including workshops, networking opportunities and teacher placement assistance.

As a result of TSTT’s entrée into the New Jersey education market, Dr. Perkins expects TSTT’s pipeline comprising more than 800 qualified high school and college students will expand. And so too will the number of TSTT alumni, now more than 150, who are changing the lives of students in New York Connecticut, Massachusetts and Virginia.

She added: “This partnership comes at a critical time in our nation’s history when only 13% of the teachers are teachers of color, yet more than 50% of the

students in the classroom reflect the ever-increasing diversity of the general population, posing serious economic and societal threats to our nation's future.”

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.

ABOUT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall has been developing students in mind, heart and spirit since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous academic programs, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by *The Princeton Review*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

Seton Hall embraces students of all religions and prepares them to be exemplary servant leaders and global citizens. In recent years, the University has achieved extraordinary success. Since 2009, it has seen record-breaking undergraduate enrollment growth and an impressive 93-point increase in the average SAT scores of incoming freshmen. In the past decade, Seton Hall students and alumni have received 24 Fulbright Scholarships as well as other prestigious academic honors, including Boren Awards, Pickering Fellowships, Udall Scholarships and a Rhodes Scholarship. In the past five years, the University has invested more than \$150 million in new campus buildings and renovations. And in 2015, Seton Hall launched a School of Medicine as well as a College of Communication and the Arts. A founding member of the Big East Conference, the Seton Hall Pirates field 14 NCAA Division I varsity sports teams.

The University's beautiful main campus is located in suburban South Orange, New Jersey, and is only 14 miles from New York City — offering students a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. Seton Hall's nationally recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark. The University's new Interprofessional Health Sciences (IHS) campus in Clifton and Nutley, N.J. will open in the summer of 2018. The IHS campus will house Seton Hall's College of Nursing and School of Health and Medical Sciences as well as the Seton Hall-Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.

For more information, visit www.shu.edu.