The first Growing Our Own in PWCS: Preparing Our Future Educators Conference was held at the George Mason University-Manassas Campus on March 11, 2010. Over 255 students from all 10 PWC high schools, Osbourn High School in Manassas City and Manassas Park High School from Manassas Park attended the conference. Students attending were members of one or more of the following groups:

- Future Educator Association (FEA)
- Teachers for Tomorrow/Teacher Cadet (TfT/TC)
- Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT)

Potomac Middle School's Future Educators Association Pilot Program also had 13 students attend.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Steven Walts encouraged all students to continue their vision of becoming a World-Class teacher. He explained that teaching is a fulfilling career for anyone who enjoys sharing a terrific learning experience and being around young people.

Mr. Milton John, School Board Chairman-At-Large wished the students success in becoming teachers and invited all the students back to PWCS to teach.

Students also enjoyed workshops, visiting exhibitors from colleges/universities and financial aid and scholarship venues.

Workshops were presented by university professors, PWCS classroom teachers, professional development personnel, curriculum supervisors, college students and financial aid/scholarship experts.

The conference was planned by the Growing Our Own Steering Council. The group is facilitated by Sedalia Ledbetter, Human Resources Program Coordinator. Members of the Steering Council are:

- Emily O’Connor, TfT/TC Gar-Field HS
- Leslie Barbour, TSTT Gar-Field HS
- Della Gordon, FEA Gar-Field HS
- Angela Jenkins, TSTT Hylton HS
- Rozlyn Rodgers, FEA Hylton HS
- Sandra Neill, TSTT Freedom HS
- Pamela Emert, TfT/TC Woodbridge HS
- Debbie Daigneau, TfT/TC & FEA Osbourn Park HS
- Joanna Crutchley, TfT/TC & FEA Forest Park HS
- Nancy Jones, FEA Forest Park HS

The members of the Steering Council are passionate about teacher education and look forward to the 2011 Preparing Our Future Educators Conference.
Inspiring Future Educators

Kudos to Prince William County Educators, college students, and community leaders, who presented workshops at the Growing Our Own in PWCS: Preparing Our Future Educators Conference. Dr. Ralph Tyler once said, “Teaching is not just a job, it is human service, and it must be thought of as a mission.” A mission it was for workshop presenters.

Workshops included such topics as “Developing Qualities of an Effective Leader,” Victor Martin; “So You Want To Be A Teacher,” Jason Bell; “What’s Next?” students from Howard University and TSTT college students; “Supporting Students With Special Needs” and “Teaching Students With Special Needs” presented by members from the PWCS Office of Special Education; STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Jason Calhoun and many more.

Students also received information on scholarships, financial aid, college choices, and Teaching and Learning in Prince William County Schools.

Growing Our Own in College

The mission of the Growing Our Own in PWCS program is to identify, recruit, and mentor, middle and high school students interested in the field of education, who after college may return to PWCS classrooms.

When a student from the Future Education Association (FEA), Teachers for Tomorrow/Teacher Cadet (TFT/TC) Program, or Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Teachers (TSTT) graduates they continue their membership in the Growing Our Own Program as long as they aspire to become an educator. The program coordinator maintains contact with all college students throughout their college career. The student is then invited to apply for a job with PWCS. Currently there are 34 college students enrolled in the program. The program will have college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors during the 2010-11 school year.

Students are invited to meetings and seminars during their summer, winter, and spring breaks. This year students were not only invited to meetings this summer, they were invited to present at the Preparing Our Future Educator Conference at GMU-Manassas Campus on March 11, 2010.

Perla Vitela, University of Virginia, Bella Martinez, Liberty University, and Brenda Martinez, Lynchburg College are all former Freedom HS FEA and TSTT members.

Kristin Mahafee, University of Virginia is a former FEA and TSTT member from Potomac HS. The college students participated in a panel discussion with Kheaton Scott and Marquis Smith from Howard University. The panel presented information to students about college life, college culture, and succeeding in college.
**Future Educators Association (FEA)**

**FEA Expands**

The goal of the Department of Human Resources and the Growing Our Own in PWCS initiative is to have a Future Educator Association (FEA) in every high school. This year we have expanded to pilot an FEA in middle school and Potomac MS has been our first pilot middle school association. Ms. Mary Tate, FEA advisor, has been very successful in forming a group of 22 future educators from grade 6 and 7. We look forward to forming an FEA in all middle schools.

**Forest Park High School becomes a FEA Honor Chapter**

The FEA Honor Society is a select group of students and chapters who have met high standards for academic and personal achievement. Members include FEA honor chapters that are recognized at the national level, as well as FEA honor students are recognized at the local chapter level.

The FEA Honor Society is a worthy endeavor because the process of becoming an FEA honor student helps students gain a realistic understanding of the education profession and the recognition associated with this honor can be used to students’ advantage on college applications and in job interviews.

**How can a student join the FEA Honor Society?**

Any FEA member who meets the following criteria by March 1 of the current academic year is eligible to be an FEA honor student:

- Attends at least 75 percent of chapter meetings/activities/events per year.
- Maintains a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Completes 6 service hours per year. These hours may be spent tutoring/mentoring, working as a teacher assistant, or teacher shadowing, to name a few examples. Up to one hour of this requirement can be fulfilled by serving in a leadership role for the FEA chapter, such as chapter officer or committee chair.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO FOREST PARK HIGH SCHOOL FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION FOR ACHIEVING THIS GREAT HONOR!**

Mrs. Joanna Crutchley and Mrs. Nancy Jones are the FEA advisors for Forest Park High School.

**Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Teachers (TSTT)**

The mission of TSTT is to recruit, mentor, and place economically challenged and culturally-diverse high school students through college to employment as teachers and leaders who will inspire and strengthen their communities. Students enrolled in the program attend six PWC high schools and are grades 9-12.

Each school has a teacher mentor who meets with students at least once a month. Some mentors meet with their students more than once a month, depending on need and activities. The schools and teacher mentors are:

- Battlefield HS: Mr. Steven Ward
- Freedom HS: Ms. Sandra Neill
- Gar-field HS: Ms. Leslie Barbour
- Hylton HS: Ms. Angela Jenkins
- Potomac HS: Ms. Bernardine Young
- Stonewall HS: Mr. Marcus Lawrence

**TSTT activities include:**

- College visits
- Financial aid seminars
- Career development workshops
- PWCS Student Leadership Conferences
- PWCS Preparing Our Future Educator Conference
- Teacher Shadowing and Observation
- Preparation and participation in the PWCS Summer Job Fair
- Tutoring
- Fall Technology Conference
- Financial Literacy and Time Management workshops
- Summer Internships

Participating TSTT graduating seniors are eligible to receive 50% College Tuition Scholarships from several partnership universities. This year Seth Awotwi, a graduating senior from Potomac HS has received a 50% college tuition scholarship to attend Syracuse University in the fall.

The TSTT partnership universities include:

- Canisius College
- College of New Rochelle
- Fordham University
- George Mason University (in-state only)
- Gordon College
- Iona College
- Keuka College
- Marist College
- Manhattan College
- Manhattanville college
- Nazareth College
- Pace University
- Queens College (Math Majors only)
- Manhattan College
- Sacred Heart University
- St. John Fisher College
- St. Thomas Aquinas
- SUNY New Palz (in-state only)
- SUNY Genesco, Syracuse University
- Texas College
- University of Mary Washington (in-state only).
Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow/Teacher Cadets (TfT/TC)

In Virginia, it is strongly felt that "grow your own" and high school programs capturing the interests of potential teachers may be one strategy toward resolving the challenge of teacher shortages. As such, Virginia's Teachers for Tomorrow Program is offered to high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing a career in education. The program is designed to attract teacher candidates from high school students to the field of education through exposure to a world-class curriculum and hands-on experience that focuses on teaching. Students must complete the following eligibility requirements to be considered for enrollment in the program:

- Have and maintain a minimum 2.7 grade point average or its equivalent;
- Submit three satisfactory teacher recommendations; and
- Submit a brief essay and application.

The Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow instructor is required to be a licensed teacher in the Commonwealth of Virginia and must also be trained to teach the Teacher Cadet curriculum, which is currently utilized in the Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow classrooms. Training is supported by the Office of Career and Technical Education Services.

The purpose of the program is to:

- Identify, train, and nurture high school students in grades 11 and 12 interested in a teaching career;
- Support the efforts of Virginia’s school divisions to meet hiring targets by cultivating an effective "grow your own" recruitment program;
- Create a high school curricular experience designed to foster student interest, understanding, and appreciation of the teaching profession; and
- Attract students to teaching in critical shortage and high needs areas of the state.

The program fosters respect for teachers and the teaching profession and provides high school role models for younger students. Some of the benefits include:

- An introduction to teaching and the teaching profession;
- Opportunities to satisfy beginning teacher assessment requirements;
- Potential dual enrollment credit;
- Scholarship information;
- Field trips;
- Classroom observations;
- Educational leadership opportunities;
- Teaching experience before college;
- Opportunities to make a difference in a student's life; and
- Meaningful, creative, hands-on learning activities

Teacher for Tomorrow/Teacher Cadet classes are taught in the following schools:

- **Forest Park HS**: Joanna Crutchley (Dual enrollment class with Shenandoah University)
- **Gar-Field HS**: Emily O’Connor (Dual enrollment class with Shenandoah University)
- **Osbourn Park HS**: Deborah Daigneau
- **Stonewall Jackson HS**: Elizabeth Orndoff-Sayers
- **Woodbridge HS**: Pamela Emert

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!
Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow
Curriculum Training Sessions for 2010

In recent years, the Virginia Department of Education has offered a series of training initiatives to encourage junior and senior high school students to consider teaching as a professional career. The training initiatives have been modeled after the South Carolina Teacher Cadet Program.

Seminars for statewide training to implement the Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow Program (VTfT) will be conducted throughout 2010. The two-day seminars will provide training for teachers newly assigned to offer this course in their school. Update training for the 10th edition Teacher Cadet curriculum will be offered for VTfT instructors who have previously completed a two-day curriculum training.

School divisions interested in establishing or continuing Virginia TfT programs are invited to participate in the seminar that is closest to their school division. The seminars will be sponsored by the Office of Career and Technical Education Services. School divisions will be responsible for the participant’s travel expenses and the training fee. Training is required prior to receiving the curriculum.

For more information, please contact Helen G. Fuqua, state specialist for the program via e-mail at Helen.Fuqua@doe.virginia.gov, or telephone at 804.225.2826.

What Colleges/Universities in Virginia Offer Teacher Education Programs?

Colleges and Universities with Education Programs

- Averett University
- Bluefield College
- Bridgewater College
- Christopher Newport University
- College of William and Mary
- Eastern Mennonite University
- Emory and Henry College
- Ferrum College
- George Mason University
- Hampton University
- Hollins University
- James Madison University
- Liberty University
- Longwood University
- Lynchburg College
- Mary Baldwin College
- Marymount University
- Norfolk State University
- Old Dominion University
- Radford University
- Randolph College
- Randolph-Macon College
- Regent University
- Roanoke College
- Saint Paul’s College
- Shenandoah University
- Sweet Briar College
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Richmond
- University of Virginia
- University of Virginia’s College at Wise
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Intermont College
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Tech
- Virginia Union University
- Virginia Wesleyan College

Please visit the web page below for contact information.

National Teacher Appreciation Week
Celebrating Teachers at Your School

National Teacher Appreciation Week is held on the first full week of May each year! Teacher Appreciation Day is the 1st Tuesday of the 1st full week in May.

Teacher Appreciation Week: May 3-7, 2010
Teacher Appreciation Day: Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Growing Our Own College Students
Career Development Workshop

Tuesday, May 25, 2010
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Kelly Leadership Building

Guest Speakers, Information, Food, and Fun!

College Students RSVP:
Brianna Aikens
aikenscb@pwcs.edu

Coming Soon!
PWCS Growing Our Own Web Page

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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