

NEWS RELEASE

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J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College



Current and future inner-city teachers to participate in urban education training program

RICHMOND, Va. (June 15, 2007) –From staggering dropout rates and high teacher turnover, to recruitment challenges and difficulties meeting state and national accreditation standards, urban schools across the nation face tremendous odds.

In our area, Richmond Public Schools report a 15 percent annual dropout rate, equating to 1,500 youth each year whose futures are at-risk. The Virginia Department of Education reports the need for 2 million new teachers in the Commonwealth over the next decade and a teacher shortage among minorities.

To help improve the current state of urban education in Richmond, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, in partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University and Richmond Public Schools, is offering a week-long Urban Teachers Institute on June 24-29, 2007. With a simple belief that good teachers matter and effective teachers can increase student achievement and standardized test scores, the program has been designed to enhance the understanding of teaching in an urban setting and equip future and current inner-city teachers with the necessary skills to succeed.

Dr. Shirley Key, author of *Greater the Expectations... Greater the Achievements! A Guide on Using Expectation to Propel Students to Great Success* will facilitate several sessions including teaching in an urban classroom, community mapping, and other issues relevant to creating affective skills and honing effective teaching strategies in an urban classroom. Faculty in the VCU School of Education, the College of Humanities and Sciences' Mathematics Department, and the School of Engineering will work with teachers on a research project exploring best practices in effective teaching of mathematics and science content in an urban setting. For more information about the Urban Teachers Institute or to set up an interview call Malcolm Holmes at 804.523.5230 or Dr. Harriet Morrison at 804.523.5543.

Serving over 17,000 students annually, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is the youngest and third largest of 23 community colleges in Virginia. The College operates three campuses serving residents in the City of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan and Louisa.

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