

NEWS RELEASE

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J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College



Richmond area inner-city teachers to participate in urban education training program

RICHMOND, Va. (June 17, 2008) – J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College continues to address the most critical needs of area teachers by providing a week-long Urban Teachers Institute from June 23-27. The initiative is designed to enrich teachers' understanding of students in urban school settings and strengthen content knowledge in much needed math and science areas. With support from the Community Foundation, JSRCC is partnering with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and public schools in the City of Richmond, Henrico County, and Petersburg to offer the Institute.

Urban schools across the nation face tremendous odds – from staggering dropout rates to high teacher turnover. Richmond Public Schools report a 15 percent annual dropout rate, equating to 1,500 youth each year whose futures are at-risk. Few examples exist to prepare teachers to thrive in urban settings. The Urban Teachers Institute at Reynolds will serve as a model for cities everywhere.

“Creative, caring teachers that are well-prepared can make such a difference,” said Dr. Harriet Morrison, director of JSRCC’s Center for Teacher Education. “With the right skills, they can increase student achievement and standardized test scores.”

Dr. Jacqueline Jordan Irvine will serve as the keynote speaker for the Institute’s kick-off reception on Sunday, June 22 at 4 p.m. in the Gallery of Georgiadis Hall at JSRCC’s Parham Road Campus. Irvine is a Charles Howard Candler Professor of Urban Education in the Division of Educational Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Her specialization is in multicultural education and urban teacher education, particularly the education of African American students.

During the week, session topics will include teaching in an urban classroom, community mapping, and other issues relevant to creating affective skills and honing effective teaching strategies in an urban classroom. VCU faculty will work with teachers on a research project exploring best practices in effective teaching of mathematics and science content in an urban setting.

Serving over 18,000 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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