October 2024 - Issue #13

ON THE FastTrack

MONTHLY UPDATE

We are proud to share that the Public Education Foundation's Teacher Pathway program has been rebranded as the Teacher FastTrack Recruit program, reflecting our commitment to accelerating the careers of aspiring educators. In line with this, we are excited to announce that our newsletter has been rebranded to "On the FastTrack," while maintaining its core purpose of celebrating and supporting Nevada's future educators on their journey to their own classroom.

As we celebrate Nevada Day this month, let's take a moment to reflect on the significance of this day and what it means to our community and education system. The Teacher FastTrack Team is thrilled to highlight Nevada's newest educators who have embarked on their journey to their own classroom this academic year. Their dedication and passion are truly inspiring.

We also extend a warm welcome to the newest mentees joining our program. Your commitment to shaping the future of education is commendable, and we assure you that you will be well supported on your journey ahead. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to the exciting developments ahead.

Messages exchanged: 1520
which is up 178% from last month

Meetings Scheduled: 398
which is up 747% from last month

Tasks Completed: 1083
which is up 263%

Survey Responses: 217
which is up 417%

Mentor/Mentee Engagement last 30 days:

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHER FASTTRACK RECRUIT TEAM

Welcome Back to the 2024-2025 School Year!
The Public Education Foundation (PEF) is proud to continue addressing Nevada's teacher shortage through our Teacher FastTrack Recruit program, which plays a crucial role in recruiting and retaining teachers. This program helps unlicensed school employees become licensed teachers and provides mentorship during their first three years—when turnover is highest.

Our Successes:

- In August, 45 new teachers filled open positions.
- By the end of this school year, 82 more licensed teachers will join classrooms.
- By January 2026, over 120 newly credentialed teachers will be ready to teach, with a goal to add at least 200 new teachers annually.

The Teacher Shortage: Nevada's need for teachers remains critical, with over 1,000 vacancies in the Clark County School District (CCSD) this year alone. Since 1994, CCSD has not started a school year fully staffed. Local teaching colleges only graduate 700-900 teachers yearly, while districts need at least 2,000 new teachers annually, making Nevada dependent on out-of-state hires who often have lower retention rates.

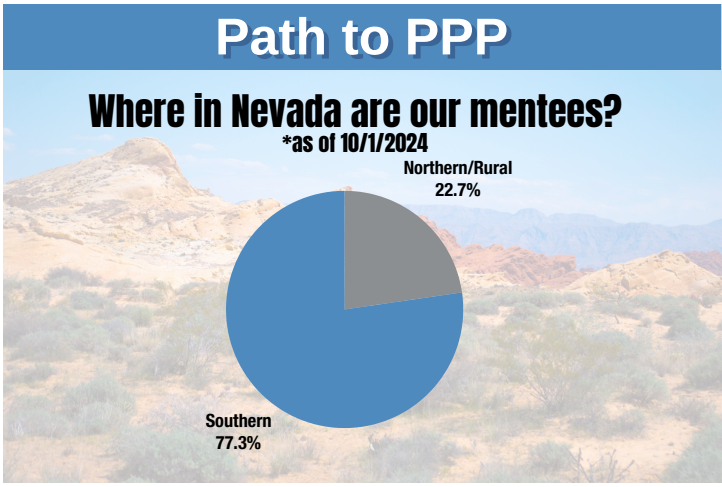
Homegrown Talent is the Solution: The Teacher FastTrack Recruit program recruits local paraprofessionals, who have classroom experience and a commitment to education. These individuals often more than double their salary by earning their teaching credentials and fill positions in schools facing the greatest shortages. Additionally, the program helps increase diversity among Nevada's educators.

PEF remains committed to supporting Nevada's schools and ensuring a successful year ahead!

With gratitude and excitement for what's to come,

The Teacher FastTrack Recruit Team

Path to PPP



Praxis Preparation and Support

All educators seeking licensure are required to pass Praxis® Core. Praxis® Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) covers the following subjects: Math, Writing, and Reading. PEF has partnered with Study.com to provide free online Praxis tutorial programming for mentees while they are in the Teacher FastTrack Recruit program. Mentees will have access to this preparation course for 4 months. We recommend meeting with your mentor to determine when you will be ready to take the exam(s) while in our program.

Once you have decided and registered for your exam(s), please complete this form to receive an access code and reimbursement of your exam fees.

Teacher FastTrack *addresses the teacher shortage crisis by identifying school employees who dream of becoming licensed teachers and preparing them for a fast-track preparation program at UNLV. We also mentor hundreds of new teachers through the first three years in their own classrooms.*

CELEBRATING AT THE FINISH LINE

Community partners united on July 30th, 2024, to celebrate the remarkable achievement of 45 of Nevada's newest educators who have successfully completed the journey to having a classroom of their own. Hosted by R&R Partners, the event was dedicated to honoring the Public Education Foundation's (PEF) first cohort of paraprofessionals who have completed all phases of the pathway to licensure, in collaboration with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) College of Education.

At the core of their success was their participation in PEF's Teacher Pathway program, now known as the Teacher FastTrack Recruit Program. This program directly confronts the teacher shortage crisis by identifying school employees who aspire to become licensed teachers and preparing them for a fast-track preparation program at UNLV. Through this program, participants are able to complete a tuition-free bachelor’s degree and teaching credentialing in just one year. Moreover, FastTrack supports new teachers through their first three years in the classroom and provides assistance to Cultural Exchange teachers who often fill the most challenging classroom positions.

The former paraprofessionals, many of whom previously worked as classroom aides and guest teachers, received mentorship from experienced educators and support from PEF to prepare for and graduate from the accelerated Paraprofessional Pathways Project at UNLV.

Peter Guzman, Chairman of the Board of PEF, expressed immense pride in the accomplishments of the Teacher FastTrack program in addressing the dire need for quality educators amidst the teacher shortage crisis. He congratulated the new licensed teachers on their remarkable achievements, emphasizing that their success is the result of dedication and hard work. Guzman also highlighted the commitment to significant growth for the program, recognizing the need for innovative approaches to end the chronic teacher shortage.

Arianna Hicks, a FastTrack graduate and new fifth-grade teacher, expressed her gratitude, stating, “Thank you for this amazing opportunity. This program helped me achieve my dream of becoming a teacher. Being able to go to school for free and leaving with no debt was truly the best gift. Within a year and a half, I am now a licensed teacher in Nevada because of this program."

Looking ahead, the Teacher FastTrack Team eagerly anticipates celebrating the 30+ educators who will enter their classrooms in the Spring of 2025. Additionally, a note of encouragement was extended to the nearly 200 mentees currently participating in the Teacher FastTrack Recruit program, assuring them that PEF and their community partners are cheering them along on their journey and are with them every step of the way.

PEF Teacher FastTrack

Contact Teacher FastTrack: tft.recruit@thepef.org
Grant Hanevold: grant.hanevold@thepef.org | (702) 271-6008
Ashlie N. Randolph: ashlie.randolph@thepef.org | (702) 799-1042 Ext. 7468