ON THE FastTrack

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MONTHLY UPDATE: This month, we take a moment to honor the extraordinary individuals who have profoundly impacted our world—both on a national scale and within Nevada. We encourage you to learn about the schools nearest to you who bear the name of influential African-Americans and learn about how they were champions for education. It is truly impressive to reflect on the fact that five former U.S. presidents began careers in serving as teachers, embodying the transformative power of education in shaping future leaders.

In the spirit of this rich legacy, we remember the poignant words of former President Lyndon B. Johnson: "Education is not a problem. Education is an opportunity." This perspective underscores the critical role that education plays in personal and societal development. The Teacher FastTrack Team takes great pride in celebrating our dedicated mentees, who have bravely embarked on the path of furthering their education and careers. These aspiring educators are working diligently to secure their teaching credentials, demonstrating their commitment to fostering learning and growth in future generations.

Our deep appreciation extends to our passionate mentors, whose unwavering support and guidance provide both inspiration and encouragement along this vital journey. These mentors bring years of experience and dedication, helping to cultivate a nurturing atmosphere that empowers our mentees to reach their fullest potential.

We are also delighted to extend a warm welcome to our newest mentees who have joined the Teacher FastTrack Recruit Program. This group is diverse and dynamic, bringing a wealth of backgrounds and perspectives to our community. Together, let us forge ahead, uniting our efforts to empower and inspire the next generation of educators, thereby contributing to a brighter, more educated future for all.

TFT graduates (completed PPP): Spring/Summer 2024	TFT graduates (completed PPP): Fall 2024	Projected Spring/Summer graduates 2025	Projected Fall graduates 2025
45	35	177	74

Did You Know? CCSD NAMESAKES

The Clark County School District in Las Vegas proudly honors 24 schools named after African-Americans who have profoundly impacted their communities and championed education in Nevada. These remarkable individuals embody perseverance and dedication, serving as beacons of hope and reminders of the transformative power of inclusive educational environments that empower future generations.

Beyond academic instruction, these schools stand as vibrant community hubs that celebrate the achievements of their namesakes, inspiring both students and staff. By elevating the stories of these trailblazers, the district ignites a spirit of pride and connection, motivating students to engage deeply in their educational journeys and fostering a more equitable community for all.

Celebrate Black History month

New Mentees on the FastTrack!

PEF Teacher FastTrack

Teacher FastTrack Recruit *addresses the teacher shortage crisis by helping to identify school employees who dream of becoming a licensed teacher and providing invaluable wrap-around support while they complete UNLV's Rebel Start Academy. We also mentor hundreds of new teachers during the first three years in their own classrooms through our Teacher FastTrack Retain program.*

Following in the Footsteps of Role Models: Deborah Robbson

In this month's On the FastTrack Newsletter, we shine a bright light on Deborah Robbson, an inspiring educator-in-training whose journey embodies determination, passion, and the transformative power of mentorship. Her experiences reveal the significant impact educators can have on their students and highlight the essential support systems that pave the way to licensure.

Deborah began her career in education as a substitute support staff in her local district, quickly discovering her true calling in the classroom. Encouraged by the unwavering support of a Special Education Instructional Facilitator, Diane Washington, she faced initial challenges head-on and successfully secured a position as a Resource Aide, later elevating her role to Title 1 Instructional Assistant. From the tender age of six or seven, Deborah dreamt of becoming a teacher, and each day, she passionately strives to turn that dream into reality.

Inspired by exceptional role models like Ms. Brass and Ms. Johnson, Deborah recognizes the power of diverse perspectives in education. Ms. Brass exemplifies a deep love for teaching while Ms. Johnson showcases the enthusiasm of younger educators. The mission of Gilbert Academy of Creative Arts resonates deeply with her: "The Arts: A Way to Learn, A Way to Live, A Way to Achieve!" She believes in the incredible potential of arts education to foster both personal and academic growth.

Despite facing personal challenges, including the profound loss of her son, Deborah remains unwavering in her commitment to her teaching journey. She understands the indispensable role of professional development and mentorship in nurturing her growth. Although financial hurdles have arisen, they only strengthen her resolve. For anyone contemplating a path in education, Deborah's advice is powerful: "Make sure you are doing it for all the right reasons." Her journey with Teacher FastTrack Recruit has fortified her commitment, and her gratitude for the support she has received is palpable.
Read more of Deborah's story on our website

RSA AND TFT RECRUIT: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO SUPPORT OUR NEWEST TEACHERS!

PEF is beyond thrilled to partner with the UNLV College of Education in an exciting and impactful mission: recruiting, preparing, and retaining the next wave of inspiring teachers. For the past three years, we've been proud to support paraprofessionals and guest teachers as they take on their teacher preparation journey—and we couldn't ask for a better partner than UNLV.
The NV|Forward Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program (UAP), formerly the Paraprofessional Pathways Project (PPP), offers a life-changing opportunity for non-licensed school employees to transition from support roles to classroom leaders. Thanks to generous grant funding, this innovative program is available to qualifying students at no cost. In as little as one year, students complete their degree and fulfill all licensure requirements.

UNLV's Rebel Start Academy (RSA) is the powerful pre-apprenticeship program that kicks off the journey, helping students earn the 60 prerequisite credits needed to move forward. During this critical phase, PEF's Teacher FastTrack (TFT) Recruit steps in with essential wrap-around supports, including an annual stipend, Praxis preparation and reimbursement, office hour support, and essential mentoring from a master practitioner.

With UNLV's unparalleled academic support—coursework, counseling, and tuition assistance—students are empowered to earn their teacher certification at no cost while getting paid! We are immensely grateful for UNLV's visionary leadership and dedication to shaping the future of education. As the nation's largest teacher apprenticeship program, UNLV is setting the standard, and we are proud to be part of this transformative journey! Together, we are creating a brighter future for students, educators, and communities everywhere.

UNLV COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

PEF Teacher FastTrack

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