ON THE FastTrack

March 2025 - Issue #18

MONTHLY UPDATE:

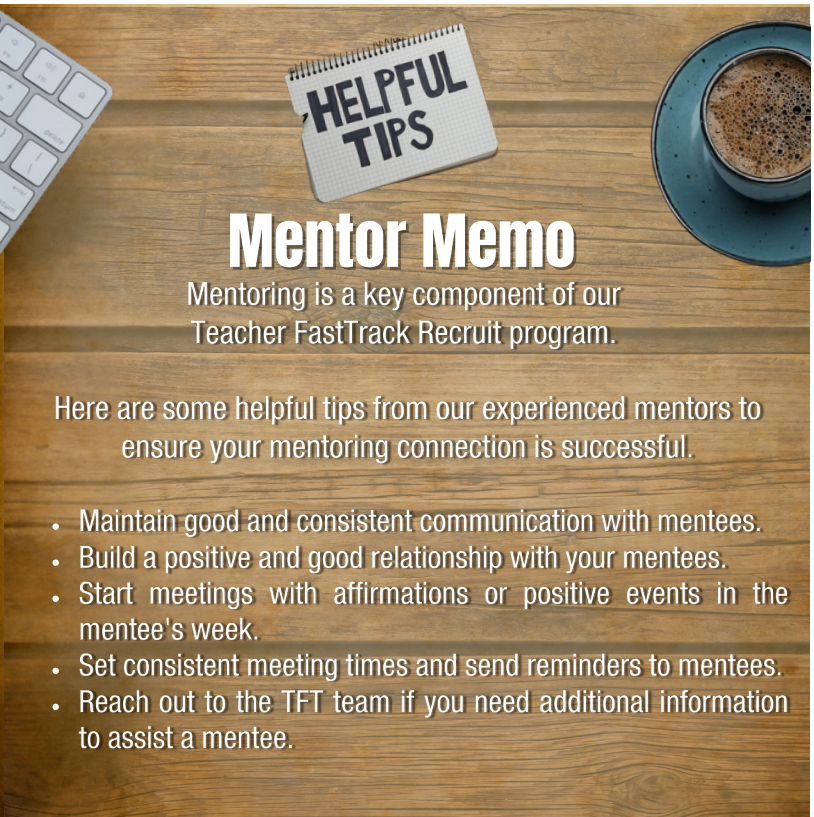
Welcome to the March 2025 issue of On the FastTrack, where we proudly celebrate the extraordinary contributions of women in education. As we honor Women's History Month, we recognize the unwavering dedication of female educators who inspire and shape the minds of future generations.

Today, women comprise an impressive majority of our teaching workforce: 89% of elementary teachers, 72% in middle schools, and 60% in high schools. These statistics reflect not just numbers, but the profound impact women have on our educational landscape.

As Drew Faust profoundly stated, "We educate women because it is smart. We educate women because it changes the world." In this issue, we highlight Mentor Gwendolyn Williams, whose passion and commitment exemplify the transformative power of female educators.

The Teacher FastTrack Team has gathered insights from our dedicated mentors, and we're excited to share valuable tips and advice from these inspiring leaders. Join us in celebrating the strength, resilience, and brilliance of women in education as we continue to inspire and guide the next generation of learners.

Education:	Job Assignment:	Employer:	Praxis Attempts:
109 between 16 and 45 credits	113 guest teacher/ support role in a classroom	79 with current employer between 2-10 yrs	11 passed some/all

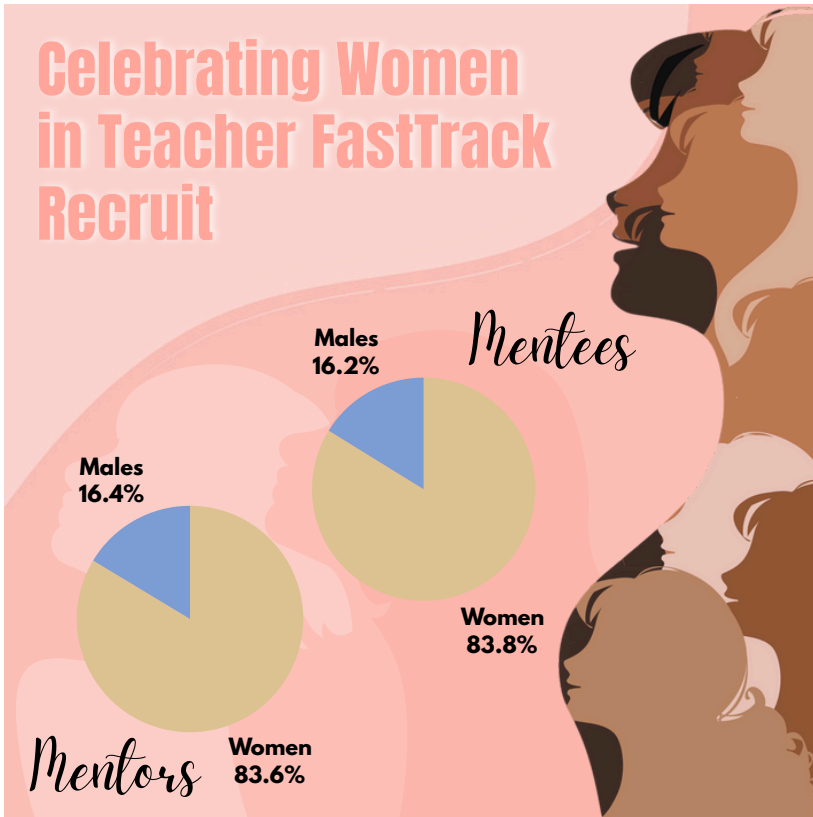


Mentor Memo

Mentoring is a key component of our Teacher FastTrack Recruit program.

Here are some helpful tips from our experienced mentors to ensure your mentoring connection is successful.

- Maintain good and consistent communication with mentees.
- Build a positive and good relationship with your mentees.
- Start meetings with affirmations or positive events in the mentee's week.
- Set consistent meeting times and send reminders to mentees.
- Reach out to the TFT team if you need additional information to assist a mentee.



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.*

Empowering the Future: Celebrating Gwendolyn Williams this Women's History Month

In the landscape of education, Gwendolyn Williams, a Teacher FastTrack Recruit Mentor, exemplifies mentorship and empowerment. After a rewarding career in Chicago Public Schools, she relocated to Nevada for a supportive teaching environment. This move represented her dedication to nurturing young minds, as she sought a new community to impact positively.

From a young age, Gwendolyn knew she wanted to be a teacher. Inspired by her eighth-grade teacher, who she viewed as a guiding figure, Gwendolyn committed to becoming a "life-changing teacher." Her philosophy emphasizes that while it's impossible to reach everyone, it is essential to reach someone, highlighting her dedication to personal connections with students.

As a GATE Specialist overseeing the Gifted and Talented Education Program in Clark County, Gwendolyn creates spaces where gifted students can thrive. Recognizing the importance of role models, she introduces her students, especially young girls, to figures like Mae Jemison and Katherine Johnson. Through innovative projects like a mock Shark Tank, she encourages them to embrace hard work and resilience, transforming challenges into growth opportunities.she encourages them to embrace hard work and resilience, transforming challenges into growth opportunities.

Gwendolyn also mentors future educators, emphasizing the significance of work-life balance and professional development. She believes mentorship is a two-way street that enriches both her and her mentees. Her legacy is a powerful reminder of the profound impact educators have, as she fosters confidence, leadership, and compassion in her students and aspiring teachers, aligning perfectly with the celebration of Women's History Month.

Read more of Gwendolyn's story on our website

THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS: COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT

Becoming a teacher is both rewarding and challenging, with aspiring educators facing coursework, licensure requirements, and personal commitments. The Teacher FastTrack (TFT) Recruit program, in partnership with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), eases this journey by offering comprehensive support while students are concurrently enrolled in UNLV's Undergraduate Pre-Apprenticeship Program (UPAP).

Systems of Support

- Veteran Teacher Mentorship: Participants are paired with experienced teachers who offer coaching and guidance on district and state guidelines.
- Weekly Office Hours: Consistent access to program staff for questions and support.
- Praxis Test Preparation & Reimbursement: Help with test preparation and reimbursement for exam fees.
- Financial Stipend: A $500 stipend per year to offset ancillary costs.

After earning 60 credits, participants transition to UNLV's Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program (UAP), where they complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, or Special Education over four semesters.

Participant Testimonials

Participant testimonials from the program reveal the significant impact of mentorship and community on students' experiences. Julia Guido expresses her gratitude for the invaluable support she received, stating, "The mentorship from experienced teachers shaped my teaching style. Thank you to my mentor Dana Stinnett." Meanwhile, Melanie Tanko reflects on the connections formed during the program, noting, "I met classmates who became friends who made the journey easier. This program is a great opportunity for people to follow their dreams while working." These insights highlight how both guidance and camaraderie play vital roles in achieving success in educational pursuits.

A Brighter Future for Education

The Teacher FastTrack Recruit program is a vital bridge to the classroom, providing financial assistance, mentorship, and a clear path to licensure. For those passionate about teaching, TFT Recruit makes the dream of becoming a teacher attainable and debt-free. Please reach out to TFT Recruit at tft.recruit@thepef.org if you have any questions or would like more information.

PEF Teacher FastTrack

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