

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE
TEACHER RECRUITMENT PROGRAM**

Providence, RI (January 21, 2009) – The Rhode Island Teaching Fellows, an innovative new program designed to recruit, select, and train professionals and recent college graduates to become teachers in the state’s highest-need public schools, is seeking applicants for its first class of candidates for certification.

Rhode Island Teaching Fellows will accept approximately 25 outstanding candidates to begin teaching in subject areas where additional high-quality teachers are most needed: secondary math, science and special education. Teaching Fellows will begin teaching full time in fall 2009.

The regular application deadline is February 23, 2009. The final application deadline is March 16, 2009. Information sessions will be held throughout January and February, as well as by phone on scheduled dates and times. Interested candidates should apply online at www.rhodeislandteachingfellows.org.

The Rhode Island Teaching Fellows program is focused on raising academic achievement in the state’s highest-need schools by recruiting and training highly qualified individuals from a variety of professional and academic backgrounds to make a difference where they are most needed – in the classroom. Although a bachelor’s degree is a prerequisite to apply, no previous education coursework or experience is required.

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“Day after day, our public-school teachers work diligently to ensure the academic success of all of our students,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “We are excited to welcome the Rhode Island Teaching Fellows to our high-need classrooms, where they will join in our efforts to close the achievement gap and to provide a solid educational foundation for our students.”

Rhode Island Teaching Fellows uses a rigorous selection model to select outstanding candidates. Teaching Fellows will participate in an intensive pre-service training in summer 2009 and will complete alternative certification requirements while teaching full-time.

This initiative is a partnership between the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The New Teacher Project (TNTP), a national nonprofit dedicated to closing the achievement gap by ensuring that high-need students get outstanding teachers. Founded by teachers in 1997, TNTP partners with school districts and states to implement scalable responses to their most acute teacher quality challenges.

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