



**News from
Mayor Ron Dellums**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYOR DELLUMS, SCHOOL DISTRICT GARNER \$2 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR *TEACH TOMORROW IN OAKLAND*

OAKLAND – The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), Mayor Ron Dellums, the Mayor’s Community Task Forces and Oakland Education Association today announced that the United States Department of Education awarded \$2.1 million for the *Teach Tomorrow in Oakland (TTO)* initiative.

Mayor Dellums recently attended a U.S. Conference of Mayors, where he discussed TTO and met with U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan. “Providing our schools with quality teachers is a critical issue for urban mayors and urban school districts. Our children need teachers who live in the neighborhood, speak their language and share the same community experiences,” said Mayor Dellums. “Teaching is the largest profession in the country. It’s a stable job with quality benefits and our residents should have the opportunity to enter and succeed in this field.”

Teach Tomorrow in Oakland is a collaboration between OUSD, Mayor Dellums, and the Education Association that aims to cultivate a team of educators who are from Oakland and represent Oakland’s diversity in culture, language, and experience. Local adults and college students are provided assistance with the multiple fees, tests, and application procedures required to earn a teaching credential.

School Board Member Gary Yee said, “From my point of view this is a very important step to institutionalize the recruitment of highly qualified Oakland residents as teachers. We really appreciate that this is being done by the school district and the city together.”

Dr. Rachele Rogers-Ard, Director of TTO said: “This is an important step in localizing our recruiting efforts as we move away from the idea that Oakland people are not willing or able to teach Oakland children.”

For more information on TTO, contact Dr. Rogers-Ard at 510-879-8916 or rachele.rogers-ard@ousd.k12.ca.us. The TTO program invites the following groups to consider a career in teaching: Oakland Unified Alumni and other members of the Oakland community; Oakland classified staff; high school students; middle students; and student teachers. Applicants to the program are asked to provide an essay, participate in an interview process, and conduct an activity with young people. A typical candidate, Derrick, attended Skyline High School, graduated from U.C. Santa Cruz, and wants to teach math.

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Laura Moran, Chief Services Officer for the Oakland School District said: “I am very excited that a program developed in partnership with so many organizations that care about good teaching has received the national support it needs and deserves. Teach Tomorrow in Oakland came out of many, many sessions with teachers, community and principals who feel the need to create a diverse and local teaching workforce that will support the students of Oakland.”

Kitty Kelly Epstein, Education Director for Mayor Dellums said: “We think this program could become a national model. We talk a lot about mentors, a concept which I completely support, but how about getting young Black, Latino, and Asian men into the classroom in paying jobs teaching their neighbor’s children. That’s an employment, anti-drop-out and neighborhood development program all rolled into one package.”

Dr. Kimberly Mayfield was convener of the Mayor-initiated task force, which proposed the need for such a program. “We have worked hard on this program for two years, and we are delighted that it will now have reasonable funding.”

Oakland Education Association President, Betty Olson Jones said: “I am truly excited about the possibility of "growing our own" because I believe this will help immeasurably in retaining good teachers -- those that know Oakland, have gone to Oakland schools, and have a sincere desire to make this their career rather than a stepping-stone to something else.”

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