



MEDIA RELEASE

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Teach Tennessee Recruiting Sixth Class of Fellows

Nashville, TN – *Teach Tennessee* is seeking mathematics, science and foreign languages professionals to help fill Tennessee’s teacher shortages in these critical subjects. *Teach Tennessee* trains exceptional mid-career professionals to teach in grades 7-12, where research indicates a teacher’s subject knowledge is critical to student learning. Former engineers, nurses, researchers, lawyers and chemists are just a few of the past professions of *Teach Tennessee* Fellows.

“The research shows a teacher’s expertise in the subject they teach is of utmost importance to students in middle and high school,” Governor Phil Bredesen said. “The ideal teacher has such a deep understanding of the material as to easily teach the concepts a variety of ways. I believe individuals who have worked successfully for years in a related field have the expertise students need to learn.”

The *Teach Tennessee* program is accepting applications through March 3 for the summer institute June 9-14 and June 23-28. Participation in the *Teach Tennessee* Institute is mandatory. Minimum eligibility qualifications include:

- a college degree;
- five years of paid work experience in the subject they intend to teach;
- 24 hours college credit in that subject, or a passing grade on the Praxis II exam in that subject

“We have been pleased with the interest from people who want to make a difference in the lives of students and who have a lot to offer,” *Teach Tennessee* Executive Director Becky Kent said. “The obstacle in the past has been that many mid-career professionals do not have the financial flexibility or time to go back to school full-time. This program offers well-qualified individuals a chance at a rewarding career and creates a valuable new pool of teachers for schools facing teacher shortages.”

Governor Phil Bredesen launched *Teach Tennessee* to put the knowledge and experience that mid-career professionals, retirees and others have to offer to work in the classroom. Interested candidates should visit *Teach Tennessee’s* Web site at www.teachtennessee.org for details and to request an application.

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