

Teacher Corps Recruits


Submitted by Mira Browne
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The California Teacher Corps, the statewide organization representing California's alternative certification programs, recently announced that nearly 50 percent of teachers placed in the classroom from Teacher Corps programs for the 2009-10 school year were under-represented minorities, according to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Additionally, Teacher Corps programs recruited twice the percentage of African Americans and 50 percent more Latinos than are currently teaching in the broader California public school system. These numbers represent a steady increase in under-represented minorities being recruited into the teaching profession by alternative certification programs.

"Our programs have made it a priority to increase the representation of African American and Latino teachers in the teaching profession," said Catherine Kearney, president of the California Teacher Corps. "By diversifying the profession, we are providing students with teachers who are representative of their own community. We are actively encouraging under-represented minorities to join the teaching profession, recognizing the positive impact they are having on California's changing student population."

For the 2009-10 school year, approximately eight percent of teachers from Teacher Corps programs were African American, compared to four percent within the state's overall teaching workforce, according to the California Department of Education (CDE). Similarly, approximately 25 percent of teachers from Teacher Corps programs were Hispanic, compared to 17 percent of the broader teaching workforce.

"It is important that we actively recruit members of under-represented groups into teaching, especially people of color and males," said Dr. Martin Haberman, distinguished professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee's School of Education and researcher of alternative pathways into the classroom. "They serve as role models of success, but even more importantly, they communicate



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Teacher Corps recruits

to their students that knowledge and learning are a desirable, vital goal for all children and youth to function in a democratic society. The proven, most effective means for recruiting a diverse group of teachers is through alternative certification programs.”

Teacher Corps programs have historically met the varying needs of public schools, including attracting talented individuals and second-career professionals from within the community who bring with them deep content expertise and professional experience. Over the past seven years, Teacher Corps programs have placed more than 55,000 highly-qualified teachers in California public schools.

For more information, visit the California Teacher Corps at www.cateachercorps.org.