May 7, 2010

Dear Residents,

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Philadelphia Teacher Residency! You have a great adventure ahead!

PTR is responsible for finding your classroom mentors and Site Directors but we work with Penn GSE secondary education coordinator as well. Together, we monitor your experiences in both fieldwork and coursework.

We are starting to work on fieldwork placements for the summer and fall terms. In order to do so, it is important to hear from you. **We ask that you complete the attached form and email it back to me (dcampbell@philaedfund.org) no later by May 17.** Your honest answers on this form will help us find a good fit between you, your Classroom Mentor and your Site Director. Your Classroom Mentor (CM) is the experienced classroom teacher in whose class you’ll be working every school day. Your Site Director is your university and PTR student teaching supervisor. Site Directors provide ongoing feedback, support, suggestions, and evaluation as you move through your fall and spring fieldwork. They are former classroom teachers with vast experience and resources to share with you.

As you know, all of your student teaching will happen in School District of Philadelphia high needs schools. Please understand that we cannot guarantee a student teaching placement in a particular school or with a particular mentor teacher. While we strive to pair each Resident with just one mentor, circumstances beyond our control may require that you have not one but two mentors. While we try to meet as many of your preferences as possible, we may need to make adjustments so that we can cluster Residents together in schools. Thank you, in advance, for your flexibility and readiness to work in a variety of situations. Please remember, no matter where your placement is – or whom it is with - you will have a tremendous opportunity to learn to teach in high needs schools in Philadelphia.

This placement form also incorporates some questions related to your summer fieldwork preferences. Your goals during the summer placement in a community based youth learning organization will focus on getting to know young people in Philadelphia outside of school settings: What do they care about and hope for? Why is this organization meaningful to them? What kind of learning is happening for them in this organization? Do they see connections between the kinds of learning, teaching, and work going on in this organization and the learning, teaching, and work that happen in school? How do you see yourself in relation to these young people? You will have the opportunity to explore these and other questions throughout summer term, in the field and in your classes.

Finally, please remember the Residency program is a new program to Penn GSE and the School District. As both institution are very large, serving many more student teachers, realize professors, teachers and administrators have varying degrees of knowledge and understanding of PTR. Further, there are many administrative functions that we share and some that are separate. You may often find saying to yourself, “but what does this mean if I’m in the Residency”. To avoid confusion and frustration, don’t speculate, just direct these questions to both Diana Campbell(dcampbell@gse.upenn.edu) and Maureen Cotterill(maureenc@gse.upenn.edu). With your patients and help, there are likely no problems we can’t solve together.

Sincerely,

Diana Campbell

Director, Philadelphia Teacher Residency
Resident Placement Preference Form
Due: ASAP (May 17, 2010)

Name ___________________________________________

Primary certification area ________________________________

Second certification area* ____________________ ___________ _
*Only for students seeking two certifications (i.e., Spanish and Math) while in our program. We will assign you to classroom mentors in both subject areas. If you would like to consider this option and have not already done so, please contact me (mloucas@gse.upenn.edu) as soon as possible.

Please be aware that it is possible in Pennsylvania (other states might be different) to obtain a second certificate, once you have completed a program and received your certificate in one area, by passing the PRAXIS exam in the second area. For this reason, if you are considering a second certification, please take all necessary praxis for both subject areas as soon as possible, preferably prior to the beginning of the program.

Transportation
Do you have a car?  Yes  No

Please note that having a car is helpful but not necessary, as most of our placements are accessible by public transportation.

Do you have any special travel concerns that you think might restrict your placement to certain locations? Please describe them here.

Please check off, below, the regions of the city that would be most convenient for you (and then be aware that we will do our best, but might not be able to accommodate your interest):

_______South    _____Northeast    _____West    _____North Central

About you
Please address the following prompts by filling in the blank; circling the statement that reflects how you feel; or responding very briefly to the question asked. Please know that that we are not judging or evaluating you by any answers you might offer. Rather, honest answers to these questions will allow us to do our best to provide a workable match with your Mentors.

1. I am very confident of my certification/content area and feel comfortable teaching most anything.

2. I am confident of my content area but think that ____________(topic/subject)might be a stretch or challenge for me.
3. I particularly want to teach__________________(topic/subject).

4. I particularly want to teach younger students (9th and 10th).

5. I particularly want to teach older students (11th and 12th)

6. What other expertise, hobby, interest, etc., would you like us to be aware of?

7. In what ways and contexts have you worked with young people? What ages?

8. What are your pet peeves regarding people with whom you work closely?

9. Describe your approach to learning, planning and organizing. For example, are you a careful planner and organizer? Or are you free-spirited, ready to go with the flow? What best helps you learn - close guidance or independence? quiet time? talking with others? doing? reading? Please be aware that you will be required to draw on various resources throughout the year and may be asked to study and work in ways that are not comfortable. However, you were chosen, in part, because we believe that you are flexible and willing to stretch your selves.

10. Circle below the two (2) qualities that are most important for you to find in your student teaching mentors. All of the qualities listed are valuable at different times and in different circumstances, but it would be helpful if you would indicate the two that are most critical to you on a consistent basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nurturing</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Hands-off</th>
<th>Hands-on</th>
<th>Focus on positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calm</td>
<td>Lively</td>
<td>Command of classroom management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command of subject</td>
<td>Willing to provide independence</td>
<td>Organized</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Anything else you would like us to take into consideration as we identify a student teaching placement?

**Summer Fieldwork**
You will be assigned to work with young people in a community-based organization for two mornings per week during the summer term. These placements will **primarily be made based on location**: to the extent possible, we will try to place you in the part of the city where you will be student teaching in the fall. We hope this gives you opportunities to get to know that community as soon as possible. However, there are cases where we will also want to factor in the specific skills or interests you bring to the table. For this reason, we ask that you indicate below if you have a particularly strong background in any of the topics below, and to **offer a few words about this background**, if you haven’t already done so elsewhere on this form. **It is perfectly fine to check several items, or none at all.**

- [ ] Technology-based work (web design, video production, hardware, other)
- [ ] Academic tutoring
- [ ] Environmental/nature studies/gardening
- [ ] Bike repair and education
- [ ] Creative arts education (dance, theater, music, visual arts, other)
- [ ] Business education
- [ ] Writing and publishing
- [ ] Working with animals

**Digital Photo**
Please attach a **digital snapshot** of yourself to this email to Liz Palmer at the Philadelphia Teacher Residency. **NOTE:** *It would be helpful if you named the file: yourlastname2010photo.whatever(jpg, tif, bmp)*

Thank you in advance for sharing this information.