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CALIFORNIA TEACHER CORPS CELEBRATES TWO YEARS SERVING CA'S HIGH-NEED COMMUNITIES

*Teacher Corps formed to recruit the best and brightest in classrooms that need them most;
Recruitment of new teachers focused on second-career professionals and content experts*

Sacramento, CA – The California Teacher Corps, the statewide organization representing California's more than 70 alternative route to certification programs, today announced its two-year anniversary of serving California's hard-to-staff public schools and underserved communities. The California Teacher Corps was established in 2009 to meet the future demand for teachers in the state's high-need public schools, as well as the critical shortage of teachers in the math, science and special education fields.

Teachers Corps programs recruit and train second-career professionals, and other content experts, to serve in high-need public schools. Teacher Corps programs attract individuals who can bring deep content expertise and a wealth of professional experience with them into the classroom.

Since its inception, the Teacher Corps has:

- Recruited and placed 1,300 math and science teachers, a majority of whom are second-career professionals and industry experts.
- Retrained 1,500 laid-off general education teachers and shifted them into high-need special education teaching positions, creating a pathway for schools and school districts to keep their highly-skilled teachers.
- Increased the diversity of its teaching corps by recruiting more than 50 percent under-represented minorities into the profession in the 2009-10 school year.
- Assisted rural school districts in recruiting prospective teachers from within their communities to serve in schools struggling with low teacher retention and high turnover.
- Made training available to over 20,000 veteran special education teachers needing additional certification in autism to meet the legislative call for specialized skills in California's public school system.

“The California Teacher Corps was formed with the mission to provide every student in California with an outstanding teacher who is highly-qualified and who wants to serve their community in the classroom,” said Catherine Kearney, founding president of the California Teacher Corps. “Over the past two years, Teacher Corps programs have met the pressing needs of the school districts and communities they serve, despite the state's tough budget climate and

increasing challenges faced by California’s teaching workforce. The state will face major challenges ahead, including a critical teacher shortage. Our programs are stemming this tide and will play a major role in helping to meet the increasing need for teachers in the coming years, particularly in underserved communities.”

Formerly a loose affiliate of California’s alternative route to certification programs, the Teacher Corps has provided a unified voice for the alternative certification pathway, and supported its programs with technical assistance in order for them to grow and continue to serve as pipelines to prepare highly-qualified teachers. The Teacher Corps has also served as a resource for research on the effectiveness of teacher preparation in California.

“The California Teacher Corps is filling our state’s future teacher and leader pipeline with qualified and committed individuals who are ready to serve in California’s highest-need schools,” said Beth Graybill, Interim Executive Director of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. “Not only that, but we are proud that alternative route to certification teachers are remaining in the profession – more than 70 percent of teachers are still on the job after five years.”

Alternative route to certification programs have historically met the varying needs of public schools. Over the past seven years, Teacher Corps programs have placed more than 55,000 highly-qualified teachers in California public schools.

About the California Teacher Corps

The California Teacher Corps is a nonprofit organization established in 2009 with the goal of placing 100,000 highly-qualified teachers in California’s communities by 2020. The Teacher Corps provides a unified voice for the state’s alternative route to certification programs, proactively addresses teacher preparation issues facing California and recruits the best and the brightest professionals to teach in the public schools that need them most. Teacher Corps membership trains second-career professionals, and others committed to working in hard-to-staff schools, who have deep subject-area expertise and who remain in the teaching profession. For more information, visit the California Teacher Corps at www.cateacher corps.org

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