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CALIFORNIA TEACHER CORPS DOUBLES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF MALE TEACHERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Alternative certification programs in California recruit nearly 50 percent more males into the teaching profession

Sacramento, CA – The California Teacher Corps, the statewide organization representing California’s 70 alternative certification programs, today announced that for the 2010-11 school year over 33 percent of teachers placed from its programs are male, according to data from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Comparatively, only 16 percent of traditional route teachers are men, according to the National Center for Education Information (NCEI).

Nationally, the number of males entering the teaching profession has decreased significantly by 10 percent over the last two decades. According to a report by the NCEI, the number of male teachers fell from 26 percent in 1996, to just 16 percent in 2011. While men entering teaching has decreased across all preparation programs, Teacher Corps programs have continued to hold at a higher percentage, placing more than twice as many men into teaching over the years than the national average.

“California’s alternative certification programs continue to ensure that men and other under-represented groups have a positive pathway into the teaching profession,” said Catherine Kearney, founding president of the California Teacher Corps. “Despite national efforts to recruit more males into teaching, we’ve seen the population of male teachers continue to dwindle. By consistently recruiting more males into the teaching profession, Teacher Corps programs are providing California’s students with a diverse workforce at the head of the classroom.”

According to a national study by MenTeach.org, three of the main reasons identified about why men are not entering the teaching workforce included stereotypes about gender, fear of false accusations and low status or pay. According to the study, a combination of these factors, not just one, leads to low numbers of men entering the workforce.

“Students can make connections with teachers who come from similar backgrounds as they do,” says Bryan G. Nelson, founding director of MenTeach.org. “By attracting more males into the teaching profession, we have an opportunity to improve academic performance and motivation for our male students, as well as provide the entire student body with positive male role models. We are pleased to see alternative route to certification programs such as the California Teacher Corps continue to provide males a pathway into teaching and diversify the overall workforce.”

California 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 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, with over 70 percent of California Teacher Corps teachers still in the classroom after five years.

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 certification programs, effectively and 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. CA Teacher Corps membership trains second-career teachers, 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.cateachercorps.org.

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