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Portland Adult Education

Contact:

Tess Nacelewicz
Communications Coordinator
Portland Public Schools
nacelt@portlandschools.org
207-874-8173

Grace Valenzuela, Exec Director,
Communications & Community Partnership
Portland Public Schools
valeng@portlandschools.org
207-874-8135, ext. 7801

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PPS Reaches out to Foreign-Trained Teachers with Education Academy

The new program is designed to help diversify the Portland Public Schools' workforce by helping new Mainers trained as teachers in their home countries to become educators here.

PORTLAND, Maine – As part of the Teach Portland initiative to build and diversify its educator workforce, the Portland Public Schools will be launching an Education Academy. This new intensive program, targeted specifically at foreign-trained teachers, will be offered by the New Mainers Resource Center (NMRC) at Portland Adult Education starting in January. It is designed to build on the skills and experience that these teachers bring with them from their home countries.

The Education Academy will combine coursework with intensive English and a student classroom experience. It will prepare students in the program to work as educational technicians and substitute teachers. It will also provide the guidance and support they need to ultimately apply for and pursue teacher certification. Students may be eligible for scholarships and other supportive services that will help them with the costs of any college courses they may need for teacher certification.

“Like many employers in Maine, we struggle to fill some positions,” said Barbara Stoddard, Executive Director of Human Resources for the Portland Public Schools. “However, reaching out to foreign-trained educators in our community is more than just a hiring decision for us. The Education Academy also will help us to fulfill our goal of building a talented and diverse workforce that is more reflective of our student population – the most diverse in Maine.”

Portland Superintendent Xavier Botana said, “As part of our Portland Promise, the district’s comprehensive plan, we have prioritized supporting our Portland Adult Education work because an investment in helping our immigrant adults fulfill their potential is an investment in our younger learners. I am proud of the work of our Adult Ed team, along with our Human Resources team, on this win-win proposition.”

There are a number of eligibility requirements that students will need to meet to be accepted into the Education Academy including:

- Must have work authorization



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- Be 18 years and older
 - Must have access to college transcripts and diplomas
 - Meet income eligibility requirements – under 200 percent of poverty
 - Meet English proficiency requirements
 - Be able to commit to attending courses and student practicum experience
- 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, Jan. 7 – April 12.

Anyone interested in the Education Academy should plan to attend an information session that will be held at Portland Adult Education, 14 Locust St., on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m.

For more information about the Education Academy, go to the New Mainers Resource Center website at: www.nmrcmaine.org or call Portland Adult Education at: 207-874-8155

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