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For more information  
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**Middlesex County College to Host Information Session on New Pathways Program for Those Who Want to Become Teachers**

An information session for individuals holding a bachelor's degree or higher who would like to become a teacher will be held Wednesday, January 16 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Raritan Room in Crabiel Hall at Middlesex County College. Please register by e-mailing Laura Norek, lnorek@middlesexcc.edu, or by calling her at 732-548-6000 ext. 3144. Please provide your name and phone number.

The session will outline the steps needed to obtain a teaching certificate through this alternate route program, called New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey.

"Most of our participants are mid-career professionals," said Kimberlee Hooper, director of the Office of School Relations at the College. "Some have always wanted to teach but, for one reason or another, have not had the opportunity. Others may have developed this interest in teaching later in life, as they are looking for a more meaningful career helping others. Whatever their motivation, New Pathways is the program that can help them fulfill their dream. We accept people from most academic disciplines, but schools are particularly interested in hiring teachers in biology, physics and mathematics."

Initial requirements include a 2.75 grade point average in an undergraduate or graduate degree, and a Certificate of Eligibility.

New Pathways is divided into three parts. The first is Introduction to Teaching: the 24-Hour Program.

"This runs four hours per week for six weeks," Ms. Hooper said. "Students learn the basics of classroom management, lesson plans – that sort of thing."

The second phase is a 12-session program that runs in the spring or summer. It includes teaching observations.

To go to the next phase, students must have an offer of employment from a school district. They teach during the academic year while attending class one night per week. "At the successful conclusion of the academic year, the teacher will have his or her Teaching Certificate," she said.

In addition, students have the option of receiving 15 credits toward a Master's Degree at New Jersey City University.

"This is an intensive program taking a full year to complete," Ms. Hooper said. "We are looking for motivated and determined people to participate. But if teaching is something in your blood, something that you really want to do, then this program is for you. I would encourage you to find out more about it at this information session."

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