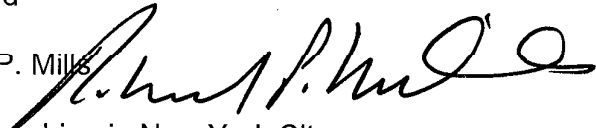




March 19, 2003

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents  
Full Board

FROM: Richard P. Mills 

SUBJECT: Call to Teaching in New York City

Last month we informed you that on April 8 the Department and the New York City Department of Education would convene a series of activities in New York City around recruiting and retaining qualified, talented and motivated individuals to teach in New York City schools, particularly in low performing schools. Attached is a detailed agenda related to the April 8 Teaching Forum, including:

- meeting with New York City Leaders (10:30-11:45 a.m.)
- press conference (12:00-12:30 p.m.)
- meeting with key education leaders (1:30-3:00 p.m.), and
- *A Call to Teaching* (4:00-6:15 p.m.)

I encourage members of the Board of Regents to participate in all the activities on April 8. In particular, I draw your attention to the meeting with key education leaders (1:30 — 3:00 p.m.) in which the Regents are scheduled to lead the discussion with senior members of the New York City Department of Education.

Attachment

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## **NEW YORK CITY FORUM ON TEACHING**

**April 8, 2003**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- ✓ Engage the educational community and the public on the issues surrounding the need to recruit qualified, talented and motivated individuals to careers in teaching, particularly in low performing schools.
- ✓ Begin the process for the State, New York City and New York City institutions of higher education to develop solutions to identified problems.
- ✓ Identify problems with maintaining and expanding the pool of quality teachers in low performing schools.

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **□ MEETING WITH NYC LEADERS (*group discussion*)**

**TIME:** 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

**PLACE:** Tweed Building – Room 3M  
52 Chambers Street

**CONVENERS:** Commissioner Richard Mills  
Chancellor Joel Klein

**FOCUS:** How to get and keep qualified, talented and motivated teachers, particularly in low performing schools

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What collaborative efforts are in place or do you plan to help recruit and prepare the teachers that schools will need in the next five to ten years?
2. What are the barriers to these collaborative efforts? What are you doing to overcome these barriers?
3. What are you doing to keep experienced, quality teachers in the New York City schools?

**PARTICIPANTS:** Members of the Board of Regents, higher education CEOs, teacher and administrator leaders, business leaders, and NYC Department of Education senior staff (30 - 40 individuals)

#### **□ PRESS CONFERENCE**

**TIME:** 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Tweed Building -- Room 3M  
52 Chambers Street

**LEADERS:** Chancellor Joel Klein  
Commissioner Richard Mills

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□ **MEETING WITH KEY EDUCATION PARTNERS** (*group discussion*)

**TIME:** 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** St. John's University, Manhattan Campus  
101 Murray Street

**DISCUSSION**

**LEADERS:** Members of NYS Board of Regents  
Deputy Chancellor Diana Lam, NYCDOE

**STAFF**

**RESOURCES:** Deputy Commissioner Johanna Duncan-Poitier, NYSED  
Deputy Commissioner James Kadamus, NYSED  
Associate Commissioner Shelia Evans-Tranumn, NYSED  
Dr. Joyce Coppin, Executive, Division of Human Resources, NYCDOE

**FOCUS:** Improving recruitment and retention of quality teachers by strengthening the school/classroom environment

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What are you doing to help new and veteran teachers strengthen the classroom environment?
2. What are you doing to recruit new teachers and retain experienced teachers?
3. What deficiencies are you finding in new teachers that should be addressed by professional development?

**PARTICIPANTS:** Cross-section of teachers and school administrators, higher education deans and faculty, parent representatives and State Education and NYC Department of Education senior staff (40 - 50 individuals)

□ ***A CALL TO TEACHING***

**TIME:** 4:00 – 6:15 p.m.

**PLACE:** American Museum of Natural History, Power House  
81<sup>st</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue

**FORMAT:**

- ***Welcome*** Vice Chancellor of the Board of Regents, Adelaide Sanford
- ***Remarks*** Chancellor Joel Klein
- ***Remarks*** Commissioner Richard Mills

- ***Small Group Discussions***

**Questions:**

1. What do we need to do to get qualified, motivated people into teaching at an early age? What can parents, schools, social organizations, institutions of higher education and others do to encourage students to choose a teaching career?
2. What conditions contribute to teacher attrition or make teacher recruitment difficult (e.g., housing, safety, lack of parental involvement, school/district leadership)? How can schools involve the community (e.g., business, industry, parent/guardian associations, civic organizations) in addressing these conditions?
3. What incentives exist or could be developed to attract motivated, talented individuals to teaching and to encourage experienced individuals to continue teaching, particularly in lower performing schools?

- ***Summary:*** Chancellor Klein, Commissioner Mills, Deputy Commissioners Duncan-Poitier and Kadamus and NYC Department of Education senior staff will circulate among the tables, listen to the discussions and summarize at the end of the session.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Members of the Board of Regents, NYC Department of Education senior staff, school teachers and administrators, prospective teachers (including high school and college students and career changers), higher education deans and faculty and parents (150 - 200 individuals).