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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: January 26, 2010
SUBJECT: Maryland Education Recruitment Consortium Teacher Recruitment Fair

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to present information regarding the Second Annual Teacher Recruitment Fair sponsored by the Maryland Education Recruitment Consortium (MERC), a collaborative partnership between the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Association of School Personnel Administrators (MASPA).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

On April 5, 2008, the Maryland Association of School Personnel Administrators (MASPA), in conjunction with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), hosted its first annual, statewide job fair. The job fair was designed to attract highly qualified and prospective educators interested in teaching in Maryland.

Funded by a Title II, Part A, Improving Teacher Quality grant from MSDE, the Job Fair provided an opportunity to more than 1500 participants to visit with Human Resources representatives from Maryland's twenty-four (24) local school systems as well as school system certification personnel and staff from MSDE Certification Branch. In addition to local school system personnel, Maryland businesses, colleges/universities, and a variety of professional organizations were in attendance.

The success of the first event provided impetus for planning a subsequent fair; however, budget constraints cancelled planning efforts. In spite of continued fiscal constraints, the Second Annual Job Fair will be held on April 10, 2010 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center, 101 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. MSDE and local school systems are the primary funding sources for this year's fair.

SUMMARY:

As the State positions itself to submit its application for funds from the Race to the Top initiative, the Second Annual Teacher Recruitment Fair provides an excellent opportunity to attract highly qualified and effective teachers not only from in-state but also from across the nation. Through the combined efforts of the Maryland Education Recruitment Consortium and the Maryland State Department of Education, the State will continue its focus staffing all its schools with academically talented, diverse, and competent teachers.

ACTION:

This item is presented for information only.

NSG: jhe