

OF EDUCATION

Schools Seek Special Education Teachers (T)

(NAPS)—In the last ten years America's school systems have seen their enrollment of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds increase dramatically.

Many schools are re-thinking how to best teach children with such varying backgrounds—especially children that require special education programs.

There is a shortage of teachers, diagnosticians, school administrators, therapy providers, and support workers who are qualified to work with special education children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

To address this shortage, the National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education has launched a campaign to attract a diverse, non-traditional pool of applicants to special education. These people include mid-career adults, retiring military personnel and paraeducators currently working in the classroom.

“Needs are most acute in rural, remote, and urban districts,” said Dr. Deborah Smith, a professor at Vanderbilt University. “Across geographic settings, however, there are striking needs for special educators and related services personnel who are qualified to work with culturally and linguistically diverse students. There is also a high need for male practitioners.”

For more information on special education training programs that offer financial aid opportunities for individuals with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, contact the National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education at 1-800-641-7824 or visit www.special-ed-careers.net.