

ACDA-PA MENTORING PROGRAM



Statistics indicate that we will be facing the worst teacher shortage ever in the next eight years.

1. At least 20% of all new hires leave teaching within three years.
2. In urban districts, close to 50% of newcomers flee the profession during their first five years of teaching.
3. The average music educator now remains in the profession three years.
4. By the year 2008, our nation's schools will need more than two million new teachers to fill the spots of retiring professionals (the 'baby boomers') and to keep up with increasing student enrollment.
5. Teachers ages 22-28 earned an average \$7,894 less per year than other college-educated adults of the same age in 1998.

As choral educators, we all must be concerned that more and more schools are hiring non-degreed personnel to work with their choirs or are **cutting back on music programs** due to a lack of applicants to fill positions.

Recently, the ACDA-PA Board of Directors established the purposes for our association, one of which is of paramount importance to the future of choral music education:

#7. to foster and promote the development of aspiring choral conductors.

As a result, we are launching a mentor program designed to help young choral specialists in establishing themselves confidently in the profession. If you want to be involved as a mentor or would like some assistance in your profession, please fill out our included mentoring form.

Additional mentoring forms can be downloaded from our mentoring program website at <http://www.acdapa.org/mentoring>. Please pass this information on to new and aspiring choral conductors!

Don't delay - do it today!

Peggy Dettwiler

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Sources for Statistics:

- 1- National Center for Education Statistics
- 2- Darling-Hammond & Schlau, 1996

- 3- Iowa Choral Directors Association
- 4- Band & Orchestra Cover News -June 2001
- 5- Education Week Quality Counts 2000

