



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Jeff Smith Participates in Teach for America Week as Guest Teacher at Soldan IS High School

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Sen. Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, joined area leaders this week as guest teachers during Teach for America Week in St. Louis (Feb. 9-13). Senator Smith participated in the annual event at Soldan IS High School on Feb. 9.

Teach for America is a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit to teach for at least two years in urban and rural public schools. The highly successful program was the model for a similar program created by Sen. Smith — the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program — approved by the General Assembly in 2007. The Missouri Teaching Fellows Program is a loan forgiveness program for top high school students who enter Missouri college teaching programs and agree to teach in unaccredited schools as they begin their teaching careers.

Teach for America Week draws leaders nationwide to support the corps' goal of expanding educational opportunity. Guest teachers are invited to visit the classrooms of Teach for America teachers and teach lessons that draw on their diverse backgrounds in business, politics or other areas.

"It is such a great honor to be invited to participate in this outstanding event," Sen. Smith said. "More importantly, I am very pleased to help highlight the outstanding difference these talented and committed young teachers are making in the lives of students."

Other area guest teachers for this year's event include Energizer Holdings, Inc. CEO Ward Klein, Ellen Sherberg, publisher of the St. Louis Business Journal, and Steve Lipstein, president and CEO of BJC Healthcare.

This year, 170 Teach for America corps members are teaching more than 13,000 students in underserved schools across St. Louis, and more than 150 alumni live and work in the St. Louis area. Teach for America's network includes 6,200 corps members teaching in 29 regions across the country and more than 14,000 alumni continue working from inside and outside the field of education for the fundamental changes necessary to ensure educational excellence and equity.

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