

For Immediate Release

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HSSU Will Offer a Free Institute for Preparing Area Teachers to Pass the Certification Exam

St. Louis, MO (March 17, 2009) – Harris-Stowe State University’s Teacher Education Department presents the National Education Association (NEA)/Tom Joyner Praxis II Preparation Institute, a program designed to assist individuals with passing the Praxis II Examination, a mandatory requirement for the fulfillment of the teacher certification process.

Harris-Stowe attained a grant from the Tom Joyner Foundation to make the institute possible, and Harris-Stowe is the only university in Missouri to acquire the grant. HSSU Interim Co-Chair of the Teacher Education Department Dr. LaTisha Smith said, “Many students, provisional substitute teachers and long-term substitute teachers are in those positions because the Praxis II exam is an obstacle to attaining their certification. At the institute, HSSU faculty will offer intense instruction on the modules covered on the exam. Program participants are administered a mock exam before and after the institute that mirrors the exam they will take for certification. Harris-Stowe is honored to prepare teachers for earning their certifications and thereby enhancing their efforts to educate Missouri youth.”

The NEA/Tom Joyner Praxis II Preparation Institute is free and open to the public for those who qualify. Prospective candidates must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Failed Praxis Exam at least once (must provide documentation)
- 2) Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 grade scale
- 3) Minimum 60 hours of completed course work
- 4) Willingness to commit to a four-weekend program of study

The upcoming session runs March 20, 21, 27, 28, April 3, 4, 10 and 11, 2009. For optimum results, participants should attend all sessions. On March 20, all participants should report to Room 205 of the Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building (HGA) with a copy of a failed Praxis score and proper ID.

On March 21, participants should report to the room that corresponds to their desired certification area:

<i>Certification Area</i>	<i>HGA Room No.</i>
Early Childhood	201
Elementary Education	203
Middle School Mathematics	315
Mathematics Content Knowledge (9-12)	307F
Middle School Science	205

Biology: Content Knowledge (9-12)	206
Middle School Social Studies	223
Social Studies: Content Knowledge (9-12)	311
Secondary English (9-12)	316

To begin the application process, please go to HSSU's Teacher Education Web site at <http://www.hssu.edu/sphome.cfm?DeptID=11> for an application, the NEA/Tom Joyner Praxis II Preparation Institute schedule and the student information packet. For more information, please contact Harris-Stowe's Teacher Education Department at (314) 340-3673 or smithla@hssu.edu.

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a four-year institution that offers 12 degree programs in the areas of early childhood education, elementary education, middle school/junior high education, secondary education, business administration, information sciences and computer technology, health care management, hospitality and tourism, accounting, criminal justice, professional interdisciplinary studies and urban education. Ranked by *U.S. News* as one of America's Best Colleges in the Midwest, the university, which has been in existence for more than 150 years, offers the most affordable baccalaureate degree in the metropolitan area.

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