Florida A&M University is fortunate to have several retirees who recently left the university. These individuals with diverse expertise in the area of higher education scholarship are hidden treasures (Appendix A) for the Teachers for a New Era initiative. In addition, the Tallahassee Community has a rich resource in retired educators with diverse experiences in K-20 education, teacher education and higher education. FAMU enjoys continued relationships with retired K-12 educators, superintendents, principals, teacher, district staff.

Retired individuals, with specific teacher education expertise or interest, will receive an invitation to participate in moving forth the scholarship and intellectual vitality components of Teachers for a New Era in the Teaching Learning Institute. Also selected individuals from the RFHT will be asked to participate on the accountability and sustainability TNE initiative. This initiative will include a systematic monitoring system for the operationalization of TNE.

The RFHT participants will participate with Teachers for a New Era on a project by project basis. Each project will have clearly identifiable objectives and timelines with specific measurable outcomes. Some of the projects identified to date include:

A. Intellectual Vitality, Research and Scholarship

Here the RFHT participant will engage in research and scholarship activities that yield publishable research briefs around the topics of Teacher Education Continuous Improvement at Florida A&M, Data for Decision Making at Florida A&M Developmental Research School, Impacting Learning Gains at Florida A&M DRS Through Data Exploration, Teacher Education at Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Transformation for Tomorrow

Retirees receiving an invitation to participate in this component of TNE would include Dr. Virden Evans, Dr. Anne Gayles Felton and......................
B. Induction

This component includes the development of a data driven continuous improvement model heavily weighted by hallmarks of accountability and sustainability. A model has been developed but will be redefined during the period of October 1, 2007 through June 31, 2008.

Retirees receiving an invitation to participate in this component of TNE would include Dr. Thomas Jackson, .................................................................,
C. Accountability and Sustainability

This component includes an internal monitoring system for TNE as well as the theory and development of accountability and sustainability structures in teacher education which can be transported to other HBCUs.

Retirees receiving an invitation to participate in this component of TNE would include Dr. Thomas Jackson, Dr. Jacqueline Beck, ……………………

D. Impact on Student/Teacher Learning and Student Learning Gains

This component of the TNE initiative gets at the heart of TNE Impact on teacher learning, retention in classrooms, student performance as well as certification based on graduation from teacher preparation programs as well as attainment of National Board Certification after three years as a classroom teacher.

Impact (teacher learning, retention in classroom, student performance), of Certification Status National, State, Local

1. State Certification based on graduation from College Teacher Preparation Program

2. National Board Certification
Appendix A

Utilizing America’s Most Wasted Resource*
Robert M. Diamond and Merle F. Allshouse

* Published: Inside Higher Ed, April 06, 2007

How often have we heard, “People with talent and ideas are America’s greatest resource”? And yet, while colleges and universities have as their primary goal the delivery of top quality academic programs, few take full advantage of the talents that are available to help meet this goal from the retired professionals in their communities.

In most university and college communities there is a growing pool of talented retired or transitioning individuals who would like nothing more than to make a difference by using their knowledge and experience to improve their communities and institutions while continuing the process of their own personal development.
Appendix B

Invitation to Participate in Teachers for a New Era (TNE)

Dr. John Anonymous
1212 TNE Lane
TNE, Tallahassee

Dear Dr. Anonymous,

You have been identified by your peers and others in the community as a possible participant in the Teachers for a New Era and the soon to be inaugurated Teaching Learning Center located in Gore Education Complex. As we work towards redesign of teacher education at Florida A&M University and participating Colleges, we need your help as a critical friend and scholar.

We are extending an invitation, to you, to participate in a Retiree as a Hidden Treasure initiative. If you accept this invitation the expectations are as follows:

1. Agree to work with a specific and measurable TNE initiative as a team member
2. Agree to attend at least one RAHT meeting per month at the Teaching Learning Institute to share your insights, commendations and recommendations based upon your assigned project
3. Agree to serve as a scholar role model to/for emerging scholars who visit the Teaching-Learning Institute. Often emerging scholars will be classroom teachers and Florida A&M students
4. Agree to attend selected regional or national TNE sessions as appropriate to your project and accompanying work plan

A modest honorarium of $50.00 per hour will be paid at the end of each project period. Lunch will also be provided at the RAHT luncheon work session one per month.

Here’s hoping that you will accept this invitation to participate in the Retirees As Hidden Treasures initiative. Activities will start in October with a kick off meeting.

If you accept, please send a written response to Dr. Gwendolyn Trotter, Teachers for a New Era, ………………………………………………………………………

Congratulations on your wonderful contributions to the field of education. Here’s hoping that you will assist us in reaching the high level of performance that has marked your career.

Sincerely,
Gwendolyn Trotter