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### **New Teachers in Mendocino Hits an Eleven Year High**

Over the past few years, the number of layoff notices issued to teachers every March has made the headlines. Combined with budget cuts, an uncertain economy, and retirement postponements, beginning teachers seem to have been hit hardest. Or have they?

This year more beginning teachers are enrolled in the North Coast Beginning Teacher Program (NCBTP) than any year in the past eleven years. The NCBTP provides new teachers with high quality professional development to meet the learning needs of their students. Steve Jurist, Mendocino County coordinator for the program, said that “the reports of a teacher over-abundance in the state are regional in nature; and it’s not true for our area.” He suggested that those who live in Lake and Mendocino counties and are interested in becoming teachers should not be put off by what’s going on in other parts of the state, like San Diego County and Imperial Valley.

The demand for teachers in our area is expected to *grow* in the next ten years as student enrollment increases and the baby boomers, who make up about 24% of the teaching workforce, head toward retirement. Almost 2,000 teachers will be needed in Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake Counties by 2016.

Sonoma County is projected to hire up to 1,400 teachers through 2016, Mendocino County is expected to hire over 300 teachers, and Lake County will need over 275 teachers, according to a recent report (*Trends in California Teacher Demand: A County and Regional Perspective*, Regional Educational Laboratory at WestEd, 2008.)

“Teachers prefer to teach close to where they grew up...and they prefer areas with characteristics similar to those in their hometown” (p. 2). This has been true for the prospective teachers who’ve enrolled in the Dominican University of California, Ukiah Center teacher preparation programs over the past 25 years. Typically, they are from our area, have grown up here, and want to stay here. They are attracted to the center’s location, local focus, accelerated programs, and reputation.

Dominican’s Ukiah Center is ready to meet the upcoming demand for new teachers with highly-qualified instructors and supervisors, highly-regarded programs in multiple-subject, single-subject, and special education, and personalized student service. For more information visit [dominican.edu/ukiah](http://dominican.edu/ukiah), find the Ukiah Center on Facebook, or call 463-4800. An information session is coming up on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at 6:00.