

Job prospects good for school teachers

By Scott McFetridge
Of the Emerald

After a decade of job scarcity, graduates of the University's education college can look forward to excellent job prospects because teaching positions are expected to open up throughout the state.

In the next five years, Lane County schools will be faced with a major teacher shortage caused by the retirement of teachers hired during the post-World War II "baby boom," says Diane Dunlap, assistant dean of the University's College of Education. One out of four teaching positions and about one out of three administrative positions will be open during this five year period, she says.

Because school districts will be forced to hire large numbers of new teachers, college administrators hope their school's enrollment will increase dramatically to meet the demand, Dunlap says. When job prospects dropped in the 1970s, the University reduced the number of faculty members in the education college and advised students to be cautious in entering the teaching field, she says.

"We've gone through a period where there have been more certified teachers than openings," Dunlap says. "As

people left the district, they just eliminated the positions."

Although enrollment in the college is expected to swell, the current faculty members should be able to handle the increase, she says. Current class sizes are small, and student enrollment can expand up to 25 percent without hiring additional faculty, she says.

"Our concern both for the University and the teacher education program is that we're not currently training enough teachers," Dunlap says.

The effects of the large number of new teachers will be mixed, Dunlap says. The school districts will save money by hiring new teachers because retiring teachers are at the top of the wage and benefit scale. But a large number of inexperienced teachers could cause a temporary drop in teacher quality, she says.

"It's going to be hard for school districts to lose that much expertise in a short period of time," Dunlap says.

Job openings are expected throughout the teaching field, especially in the areas of math, science, special education, and foreign languages, she says. In five years, most qualified teachers will be able to work in the district of their preference, she says.

Clinic offering credit to student volunteers

By Cynthia Whitfield
Of the Emerald

University students who sign up for the White Bird Clinic's quarterly volunteer training sessions will be eligible to receive college credit this term.

Sessions begin Thursday at 7 p.m.

The first sessions, at the 24-hour crisis intervention, referral and counseling center, train students to take phone calls and provide prospective clients with mental health information and referral sources.

The class lasts about five weeks and is offered through the psychology counseling program and the ESCAPE program, says Stephen Carpenter, White Bird crisis supervisor.

"Anyone interested in learning about community service and wanting to donate time and energy to the community will gain a lot from this experience," Carpenter says. "People who've been in this program have found it allowed them to deal with other people and themselves better. It can be a real valuable experience."

The initial session trains students for "essentially a receptionist job," Carpenter says. "It gives beginning volunteers a general feeling about how the clinic runs."

The class requires a commitment of about five to 10 hours a week, including one hour of weekly "desk duty," says Carpenter.

"We have 19 different desk shifts, so hours are quite flexible," he adds.

Additional training is also available through White Bird's crisis trainee program and gives students hands-on experience in providing direct crisis intervention counseling.

"Our six-month class is part Oregon Daily Emerald

of the training that leads to becoming a counselor," Carpenter says. "After one or two years, depending on the person and whether or not they've had any previous experience, a trainee could become a regular paid counselor at the clinic," he says.

Interested students should call the clinic and ask to be put on the new volunteer list, he says.

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