



Math for America

Overview

"The mission of Math for America is to improve mathematics education in US public secondary schools by recruiting, training and retaining outstanding mathematics teachers. One way MfA does this is by recruiting individuals with strong mathematics background, training them carefully as teachers, and supporting them fully during their first few years in the profession.

Our belief is that content knowledge is crucial to being a great teacher, that thorough training in the art of teaching is also crucial, and that extensive mentoring and support during the first few years will dramatically increase the likelihood that these great teachers will remain in the profession.

The other way in which MfA accomplishes its mission is by recognizing and rewarding outstanding teachers who are already in classrooms. We believe that by conveying prestige on the best teachers, we elevate the profession for all, providing models for young and old teachers alike to emulate.“



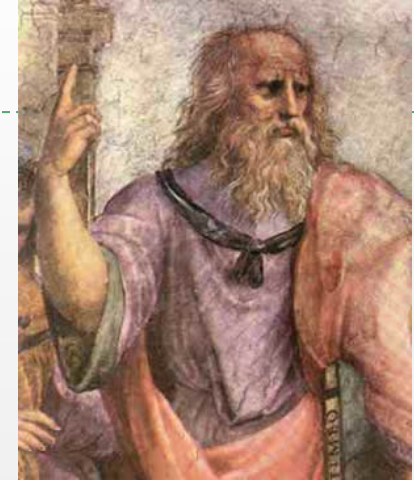
Great Teachers

- ▶ About “inspiring” teachers
- ▶ Believe
 - ▶ Great teachers are central to great education.
 - ▶ Trumps everything else (facilities, technology, textbooks, curriculum, standards)



Content/Pedagogy

- ▶ What's a great teacher?
 - ▶ Knows the subject he/she is teaching
 - ▶ Knows the craft of teaching

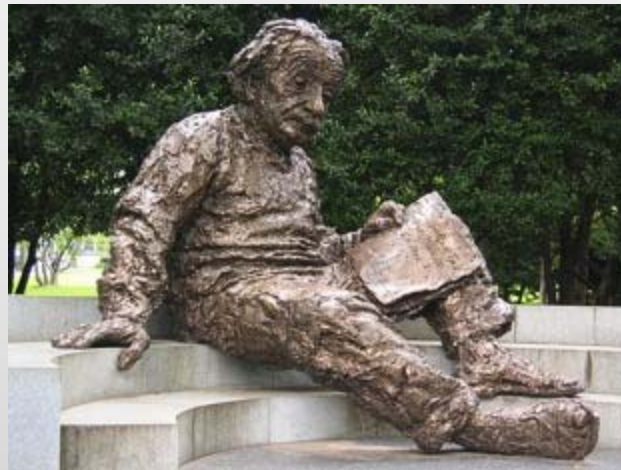


- ▶ Of course ...
 - ▶ Know content FOR teaching, not merely subject
 - ▶ Know HOW to teach, not merely about



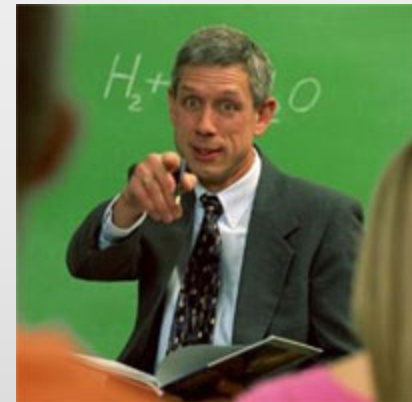
Push/Pull

- ▶ Push people into profession
 - ▶ Graduate fellowships, scholarships, bonuses
- ▶ Pull people into profession
 - ▶ Make it more attractive
 - ▶ Salary, prestige, satisfaction



Three Programs

- ▶ New Teaching Fellows
- ▶ Early Career Fellows (1-4 yrs)
- ▶ Master Teachers (5+ yrs)



Common Features

- ▶ Commitment (teaching 4 years)
- ▶ Support (professional ... Workshops, seminars, etc.)
- ▶ Support (community ... The corps concept)
- ▶ Support (financial ... Meaningful stipends)
- ▶ For New Teaching Fellows
 - ▶ Master's Degree in Teaching
 - ▶ **Four** years of induction (advisors, mentors...)



Focusing on Pull

- ▶ Why is there a shortage of inspiring mathematics teachers?
 - ▶ Not attractive
 - ▶ Pushing more people doesn't work
- ▶ To make it more attractive
 - ▶ Focus on the best
 - ▶ Elevates all teachers



Rest of the World

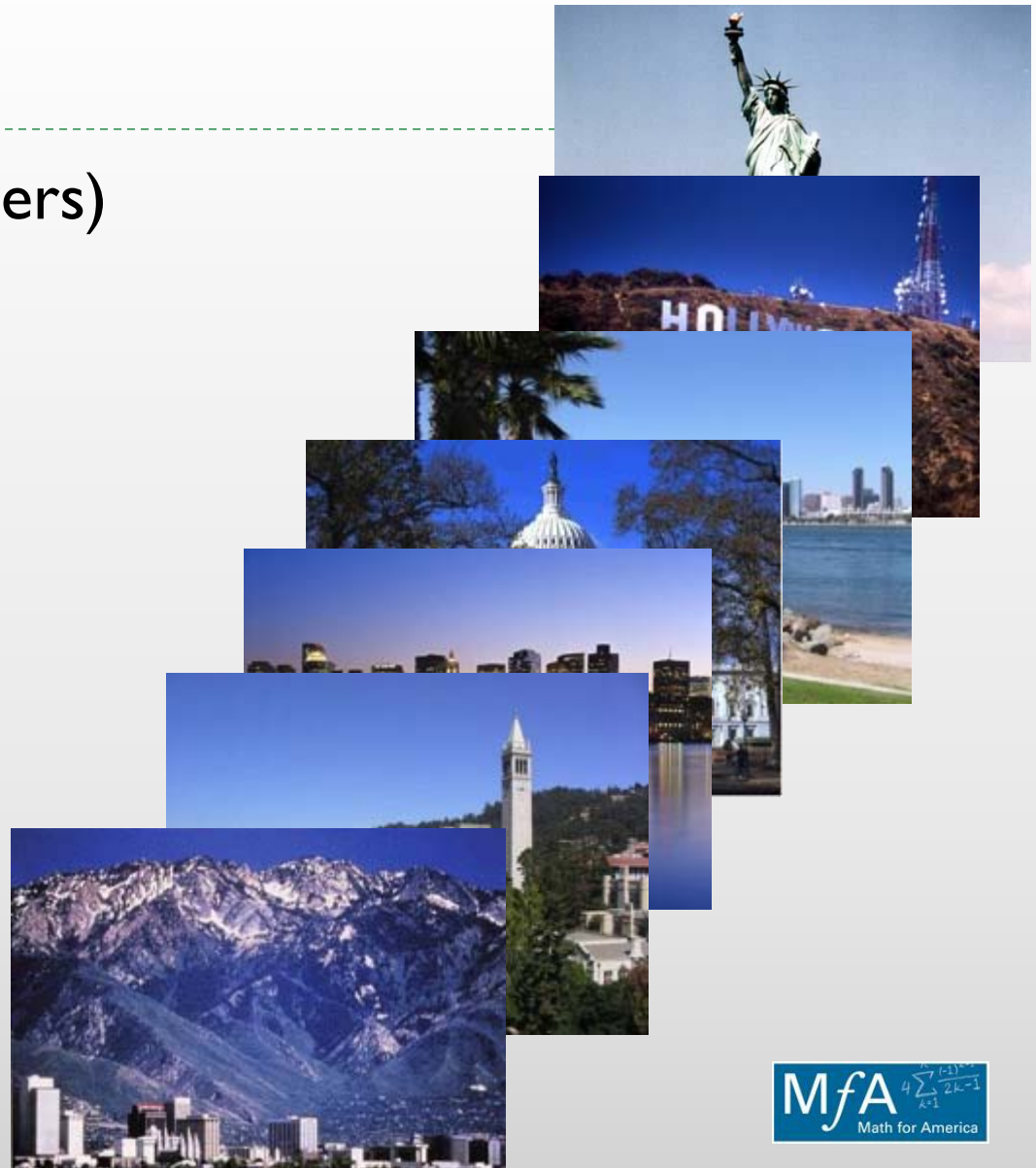
- ▶ International Summit
 - ▶ 16 top performing countries in PISA
- ▶ Respect/prestige
- ▶ Autonomy
- ▶ Finland



Seven Sites

- ▶ New York (>300 teachers)
- ▶ Los Angeles
- ▶ San Diego
- ▶ Washington, DC
- ▶ Boston
- ▶ Berkeley*
- ▶ Utah*
(~420)

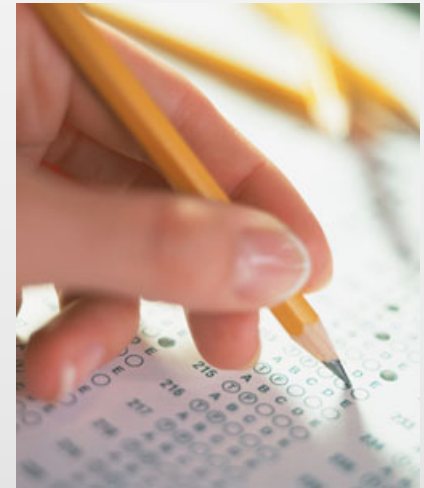
*includes science



Evidence

- ▶ “As the number of participants in our programs increases, we will be able to test our beliefs.”
 - ▶ Good teachers better than mediocre?
 - ▶ Know subject richly better than barely?
 - ▶ Know teaching craft better than 4 weeks of teaching tips?
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Great teaching is an art
- ▶ ... use the right evidence

- ▶ Our goal is learning for a lifetime, not for a semester.



Math for America

- ▶ Great teachers
- ▶ Good news:
 - ▶ **They exist**

