

## **Future Music Educator Honors Symposium**

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Take a moment and reflect upon your high school and/or collegiate musical experiences, and consider how they have contributed to your love and passion for teaching music. Whether it was that championship performance in high school marching band, the passion-evoking rendition of Agnus Dei in Region Chorus, or that moment in orchestra rehearsal when every member of the violin section had the correct bowing and was able to execute that line with musical grace, our musical experiences play a role in our desire to want to share those moments with our students.

Now, reflect on the experiences you had in high school or college that prepared you for teaching music and the career path in which you find yourself today. Were there any? If so, what did they look like? When were these experiences provided to you? While I have many fond memories of the teachers and role models that have help shape me, when it comes to my teaching experiences or first real introduction to the field of music education, my mind goes to my time student teaching. While student teaching is a crucial step in the growth of any teacher, it is my opinion that we need to provide our students planning to pursue a career in music education with earlier opportunities to grow and to network as music educators.

For eight years, PMEA has been providing such an opportunity through the Future Music Educator Honors Symposium. Offered in conjunction with the annual conference, this program introduces some of the finest Pennsylvania high school seniors planning to major in music education with an up-close and personal look into what teaching music is all about. Through the symposium students are introduced to professionals in our field who share with them the realities and expectations of the daily life as a music teacher. College music students guide them through what to expect in their first two years of study and a panel of music professors offer their tips for a successful first year as a music major.

The symposium students select a diverse array of conference sessions to attend and are blended in, and begin networking with our PMEA and PCMEA members as they attend clinics and concerts throughout the three-day event. This program truly gets to the root of furthering music education among our students as it provides the participants with a unique opportunity to experience music teaching in a whole new way and to begin building relationships with their future colleagues. In many ways this program provides a “jump-start” that our students need to begin a successful career as a music educator.

Now, take a look around your classroom and/or district and consider the seniors who are, or may be, considering music education as a career and picture them in this program. With your help, PMEA can provide an opportunity to begin their path to success through participation in the 2016 Future Music Educator Honors Symposium. Pass along the application information today and watch them grow.

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The 2016 PMEA Future Music Educator Honors Symposium (FMEHS) will be held concurrently with the 2016 PMEA Annual Conference, March 30-April 2 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. The program is open to high school seniors who have been accepted to a college/university to major in music education. Complete details, including a link to the online application, can be found by selecting the Future Music Educators Honors Symposium link under the Conferences & Events menu option at [www.pmea.net](http://www.pmea.net).