

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Rider's Westminster College of the Arts to Host Musical Theater Workshop for High School Students**

**LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J.** — Rider University's Westminster College of the Arts will host *Westminster Presents*, a musical theater performance workshop for New Jersey high school students. This unique event will offer more than 150 sophomore and junior students the opportunity to explore the world of musical theater at the college level.

The program, jointly sponsored by Rider University and the New Jersey Education Foundation Partnership (NJEFP), will be held on Tuesday, March 31, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Yvonne Theater, located inside the Fine Arts Building on Rider's Lawrenceville campus, 2083 Lawrenceville Road.

"It is so important that, even in these hard economic times, our New Jersey students continue to have access to extraordinary learning experiences like *Westminster Presents*," explained NJEFP Vice President Diane Senerth, who coordinated the event for the coalition. "Our member foundations are very grateful to Rider University for partnering with them in this exciting arts education initiative."

Rider's Music Theater Ensemble, composed of 17 students, who range from freshmen to seniors will be leading two workshops for the event.

During the morning session of the program, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Westminster students will demonstrate ensemble-building exercises and will give the high school students a chance to practice ensemble-building skills. The high school students will see how improvisational activities and group dynamics can work to create a more unified ensemble.

The high school students will attend a musical theater rehearsal and participate in an interactive program during the afternoon session from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The session will explore all of the elements that combine to create a cohesive performance. Westminster students and faculty will engage high school students in discussions of stagecraft, post-secondary study of the performing arts, and careers in the theater.

NJEFP is a statewide coalition of local education foundations working to enhance public education in New Jersey. As members of the partnership, local education foundations are offering this opportunity to the districts' high school theater students.

Participating schools include Lawrence High School, Hamilton High School East-Steinert Memorial, Nottingham High School-Veterans Memorial, Hamilton High School (West), Hopewell Valley Central High School, Manchester Township High School, South Hunterdon Regional High School, Highland Park High School, Robbinsville High School, North Brunswick Township High School and North Plainfield High School.

Westminster College of the Arts includes Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton and the School of Fine & Performing Arts in Lawrenceville. Rider's Music Theater Ensemble is taught by Dr. Nova Thomas, assistant professor of voice at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and Cristopher Frisco, adjunct faculty member at Westminster. The ensemble includes Music Theater, Voice Performance and Music Education majors.