



New Jersey  
**Work Environment Council**  
Safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment

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## **New Healthy Schools Now Campaign Organizer**

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### **For Immediate Release, July 5, 2016:**

The New Jersey Work Environment Council is pleased to announce the appointment of our new Healthy Schools Now Campaign Organizer. Jerell Blakeley most recently taught Civics and History at his alma mater, Trenton Central High School-West, and served as an Organizational Development Consultant with the New Jersey Education Association. As a teacher and graduate of Trenton Central High School, Blakeley realizes the importance of health and safety of school facilities.

“I wanted to work to help make sure that every student in NJ has access to a new and safe and healthy school environment,” Blakeley said, “This opportunity is an interesting mixture of organizing, policy, and union work.”

“We are pleased to have someone of Jerell Blakeley’s stature join our team,” said Dan Fatton, executive director of the New Jersey Work Environment Council. “His insights will be valuable as we continue the important work of making sure the state meets its constitutional obligation to provide a thorough and efficient education all children, by ensuring that all kids in New Jersey are able to attend school in a healthy and safe environment.”

“As a founding member of Healthy Schools Now, I’m very excited about the expertise and progressive work that Jerell brings to our coalition,” said NJEA Vice President Marie Blistan. “His advocacy and commitment to students and school employees have demonstrated that healthy schools are—and should be—an ongoing priority for New Jersey. I look forward to watching our network grow under Jerell’s leadership.”

Blakeley secured an academic scholarship to Howard University, where he earned a degree in History. Blakeley is a graduate of The Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, where he earned an Ed.M. in the Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education as an Eagleton Fellow of Politics and Government. He was recently selected as a 2016 New Leaders Council Fellow. Blakeley was a member of the Trenton Education Association and the NJ Education Association, where he served on the local and county Legislative Action Teams and was recently selected as one of 50 Emerging Leaders in the NJEA. He serves on the Mercer County Board of Social Services.

The Healthy Schools Now Coalition is dedicated to ensuring that all New Jersey children and school employees learn and work in safe, healthy and modernized schools.

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### **About WEC**

The New Jersey Work Environment Council is an alliance of 70 labor, community, and environmental organizations advocating for safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment. For more information, please visit [www.njwec.org](http://www.njwec.org).