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SECTION I

Between the Lines

From the Graduation Line to the Employment Line

It has often been said that a teacher wears many hats in the classroom, including counselor, role model, entertainer, guide, and nurse. One of the first hats graduating education students must don, however, is that of “super salesperson” as they enter a highly competitive field with a limited number of positions. They must market their skills and knowledge in a way that captures the attention of a building principal or district human resources director.

Preparation for this career phase must begin long before jubilant graduates fling mortarboards into the air. While the majority of education students complete their courses in time for spring graduation (May/June), most school districts prefer to have their faculty for the upcoming school year under contract by the end of April. Of course, there are exceptions to both cases, but efforts to land a teaching job should ideally begin before strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” blare forth from the university’s public address speaker system.

While certain teaching fields (special education, advanced sciences, etc.) and geographic regions routinely experience teacher shortages, for the most part, job hunting in this