

'Tsunami' of teacher retirements coming

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- More than half of U.S. teachers are eligible for retirement during the next decade, says a study urging immediate action to retain younger teachers.

"Whether this big retirement tsunami hits in the next two or three years or whether the economy keeps them around for a little bit longer, it's coming," said Elizabeth Foster, director of strategic initiatives for the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future.

The commission's study urges the establishment of programs in which veteran teachers pass their knowledge to younger teachers, USA Today reported Tuesday.

The study also calls for immediate action to lower attrition rates among younger teachers who are being recruited in sufficient numbers but often leave the field within five years.

"We're trying to fill a bucket with a hole in the bottom and we have been for decades," Tom Carroll, who co-wrote the study with Foster, told USA Today.

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