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June 18, 2013

TO: Chief School Administrators of High School Districts
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Non-Public Advisory Committee Members
New Jersey School Boards

FROM: Stephanie James Wilson
Executive Director, Amistad Commission, NJDOE

SUBJECT: The 2013 Amistad Commission Summer Curriculum Institute for Teachers – August 5-8, 2013

Amistad Summer Institute: Using the Amistad Curriculum to Celebrate Anniversaries of Change - Utilizing Primary Sources and Historical Fiction within the Common Core Standards

I am pleased to announce that the Amistad Commission - New Jersey Department of Education will once again host the 7th Annual Summer Curriculum Institute for Teachers and would like to encourage the participation of both Administrators and Educators to apply for this free professional development opportunity.

The New Jersey Amistad Commission is proud to present the *Seventh Annual Summer Curriculum Institute at Montclair State University* in Montclair, NJ. The curriculum consortium is a four (4) day session designed for public school elementary and secondary teachers, supervisors and administrators; history content is interdisciplinary with an emphasis on Social Studies. Our aim is to teach additional methodological and pedagogical techniques while looking at special topics in history in order to fulfill the mandate of the Amistad legislation which is to infuse African-American history into the K-12 social studies curriculum. The Amistad Summer Institute is a residential program which gives educators access to prominent historians and scholars. In addition, the Institute seeks to enhance teachers' curricular approaches while taking advantage of the resources offered at *Montclair State University, Home of the Center for Pedagogy*. Professional Development credit will be offered as well as the opportunity to design curriculum materials.

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During the 4-day session **August 5-8, 2013**, seventy five (75) educators will work in collaboration with knowledgeable historians and scholars and experience multimedia historic presentations provided by the *American Institute for History Education* (AIHE). The Amistad Commission Institute will demonstrate to Educators how they can use the NJ Amistad Commission's online resource to meet the ELA and Social Studies Common Core requirements and also to properly prepare their students to master the PARCC assessments. Looking at multicultural literacy and informational texts to help their students master Common Core Requirements, attendees will also see how to effectively teach substantive content using the skills required to meet the Common Core standards. Attendees will also see how all of the ELA and Social Studies teachers can use Amistad online to prepare for the PARCC assessments: writing to the texts, identifying academic vocabulary, and making cogent conclusions, using solid evidence from texts.

Thematic presentations will be accompanied with historical lectures, and participants will craft unit and lesson plans, study texts, topics, and ideas central to elementary and secondary social studies education. Selected fellows will have access to Montclair State University's library collections, with time reserved to pursue individual research. Further, the Institute aims to prepare participants to return to their classrooms with a deeper knowledge of current scholarship in American History with an understanding of the significant contributions of African-Americans.

This summer, the central focus for the Summer Institute will be to investigate three events that we celebrate as benchmark anniversaries this year. These events helped to change the course of civil rights development and progress in United States history.

The Institute will thoroughly examine the prevailing and diverse narratives of the events with an historian. They will then use their Amistad online resource to analyze contemporary primary sources and opposition texts, using "informational texts" methods and strategies that were created specifically for teachers to use in their classrooms and required by the ELA Common Core standards. Each day, teachers will also spend some time participating in and observing, reenactments of events surrounding the dates we are studying. They will see how they can utilize various cross curricular resources such as the dialogues for role-play activities that are found in the Amistad resource. Teachers will end each day with a discussion and activity on how these events and informational texts can be assessed using a PARCC like format that their students will experience on their state assessments. The PARCC style assessments will be found on their Amistad Online resource.

In a concerted effort to turnkey district by district the usage of this resource, in preparation of mandatory curriculum redesign for School Year 2013-2014; the institute at Montclair State University, will allow Educators a unique opportunity to be trained on the utilization of our web-based curriculum resource, a premier multimedia resource for teachers in the state but also allow a venue to receive professional development credit hours by enhancing their content knowledge and teaching methodology in areas of specific historical emphasis.

The Amistad Summer Institute wants to guarantee opportunities for the multitude of district curriculum specialists and classroom teachers that will require training for statewide compliance with the Amistad legislation as well as the new common core adoptions in September 2013.

The 2013 New Jersey Amistad Commission Summer Institute application is available on the department's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/amistad> and on our web-based curriculum resource at www.njamistadcurriculum.com.

ELIGIBILITY

All New Jersey public (district and charter school) and nonpublic (parochial or private school) elementary or secondary educators are eligible to participate. Selected candidates must attend the full, 4-day session to be given professional development credit. ***Partial attendance or daily visits not allowed without prior permission.*** We prefer that only those candidates who are able to commit to the full 4 days of residential study should apply (please let us know of any extenuating circumstances). Individuals interested in a commuter option must specify so we can plan accordingly. Applicants must complete the Amistad application and essay, and provide all of the information requested to be considered eligible.

Completed applications should be submitted to the New Jersey Amistad Commission. **Space is limited and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.** If there are any questions about the application process or the Institute please email or contact, Glender Terrell or Shara Floyd in the Amistad Commission office at 609-984-6428 or at amistad@doe.state.nj.us.

- c: Christopher Cerf, Commissioner
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- Tracey Severns, Chief Academic Officer
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