



State of New Jersey

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June 3, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
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Public and Nonpublic School Principals
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New Jersey School Boards

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

SUBJECT: Amistad Commission Annual Summer Curriculum Institutes for Teachers
Northern Region: *Montclair State University, August 4-6, 2014*
Southern Region: *Rowan University, August 7-8, 2014*

**Using the Amistad Curriculum to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of
Brown v. the Board of Education-the histories and legacies of school
desegregation in New Jersey and across the country, and
How to use Primary Sources and Historical Fiction within the Common Core
State Standards**

The Amistad Commission is proud to present the 8th Annual Summer Curriculum Institute at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ on **August 4-6, 2014**; and the inaugural Summer Curriculum Institute at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ on **August 7-8, 2014**. The Amistad Summer Institute is a residential program which gives educators access to prominent historians and scholars. We would like to encourage the participation of both Administrators and Educators to apply for this free professional development opportunity. The curriculum consortium is designed for public school elementary and secondary teachers and supervisors and administrators with an emphasis on social studies.

Our aim is to enhance current methodological and pedagogical techniques by using special topics in history in order to fulfill the mandate of the Amistad legislation (P.L. 2002, c. 75); to infuse African-American history into the K-12 social studies curriculum; as well as to give educators the opportunity to design curriculum materials while earning professional development credit. In addition, the institutes are designed to enhance teachers' curricular approaches by taking advantage of the rich resources offered at Montclair State University's *Home of the Center for Pedagogy* and Rowan University's *Center for Multicultural Affairs and College of Education*.

During the two (2) institutes – three (3) days, **August 4-6, 2014** at **Montclair University** or two (2) days, **August 7-8, 2014** at **Rowan University**; one hundred (100) educators will work in collaboration with knowledgeable historians and scholars and experience multimedia history-based presentations and to use primary resource materials provided by *the Amistad Commission* and *American Institute for History Education (AIHE)*. The institutes offer unique thematic presentations, multicultural literacy and informational texts, and other selected materials designed to help users to understand how to apply rubrics and evaluate the quality of instructional resources, to define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education to meet the *Common Core State Standards (CCSS)* in English Language Arts (ELA), *New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS)* in Social Studies, and how to prepare their students to master the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* assessments. 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.

This year, the presentations are centered on the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision as the thematic foundation for lectures, crafting unit and lesson plans, and studying texts, topics, and ideas central to elementary and secondary social studies education. Moreover, each institute is designed to provide teacher-students with the opportunity to use the Amistad online resource to examine the prevailing and diverse narratives of the events with first person narratives, historians, lawyers and educators 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 CCSS in ELA. 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 speeches, dialogues, and the dramatic arts that are found in 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 encounter on their upcoming state assessments. The PARCC style assessments will be found on their Amistad Online resource.

Finally, in a concerted effort to ensure that each institute is a turnkey district-by-district endeavor of curriculum redesign for School Year 2014-2015, each teacher-student participant will be trained to use the Amistad web-based curriculum, a premier multimedia resource for teachers in New Jersey.

The Amistad summer institutes want to guarantee opportunities for the multitude of district curriculum specialists and classroom teachers that will require training for statewide compliance with the Amistad legislation and implementation.

Applicants are invited to apply to either institute at Montclair State University or Rowan University, but not both. Applicants are not restricted by geographic location. The 2014 New Jersey Amistad Commission Summer Institute applications for both are 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. Applicants must complete the Amistad application and essay, and provide all of the information requested to be considered eligible.

First preference will be given to applicants who commit to full training at their chosen institute. If there are extenuating circumstances, please let us know on your application. Commuter applicants must select the commuter option on the application.

To be given full professional development credit, candidates selected to participate must attend the full sessions for which they are registered. ***Partial attendance or daily visits are not permitted without prior authorization.***

Completed applications should be submitted to the New Jersey Amistad Commission by **Friday, July 18, 2014. Space is limited and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.**

All selected candidates will be notified no later than Friday, July 25, 2014. 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

SJW/IAQ/sf: summerinstitute2014.

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