



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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September 20, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators of High School Districts
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads (High Schools)
Public High School Principals
Directors of Guidance
Non-Public Advisory Committee Members
New Jersey School Boards Association

FROM: Stephanie James Harris
Executive Director, Amistad Commission

SUBJECT: **The 2016 18th Annual Malcolm Bernard Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Fair of New Jersey and New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program**

I am pleased to announce that the Amistad Commission - New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will once again collaborate with The Malcolm Bernard Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) College Fair of New Jersey and the New Jersey Rising Scholars Award Program. The week-long fair, capstoned with the New Jersey Rising Scholars recognition luncheon, is an excellent opportunity for institutions of higher education to meet New Jersey's students and to share the rich legacy and opportunities that an HBCU can offer.

This year's fair will again feature:

- College application fee waivers;
- On-site admissions acceptance;
- Guest speakers;
- Panel discussions; and
- Workshops for educators, students and parents that focus on the necessary tools to pursue post-secondary education and succeed in institutions of higher education.

In recent years, approximately 10,000 to 12,000 students have participated annually in the Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair Week. In addition to the valuable information that the 40-plus HBCU admissions professionals provide at each event, New Jersey students have benefited from workshops, motivational speakers and college-readiness programs that are presented.

This experience has inspired many of the students to reach for their dreams and to fulfill their aspirations. I encourage you to continue to provide this opportunity to your junior and senior students by adding one of the following Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair events to your 2016-17 school calendar of events.

www.nj.gov/education

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This year's fair will be held at four regional sites:

Sunday, November 13, 2016

Mercer County Community College
100 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550

Monday, November 14, 2016

Raritan Valley Community College
118 Lamington Road
Branchburg, NJ 08876

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

BB&T Pavilion
(formerly Susquehanna Bank Center)
1 Harbor Boulevard, Camden NJ 08103

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102

For your convenience, high school registration forms with additional information are now available at the Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair of New Jersey website at www.hbcu-cfnj.com. Also, online student registration and helpful student preparation procedures are available on the website. Please note that you will again be responsible for securing buses for your student groups.

The New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program will recognize high school seniors graduating in the school year 2016-17 who are leaders in their school and communities. The program acknowledges students from diverse backgrounds who are interested in attending an HBCU and have defined career and educational goals. It culminates with an awards ceremony in the Trenton area on **Sunday, November 13, 2016**. In addition, students selected as 2016 NJ Rising Scholars may also be eligible to receive the **HBCU Rising Scholars Fund Scholarship**. Based on the availability of funds, this non-recurring scholarship will be awarded by The Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair, Inc., to a select number of incoming college freshman who enroll in an Historically Black College or University in the fall of 2017 and need financial assistance.

Eligibility has been broadened to include students with a 2.8 GPA and 1350 SAT score or better. Encourage your upcoming high school seniors to take the SAT or ACT to ensure full consideration.

The 2016 New Jersey Recognition Program Guidelines and Application are now available on the NJDOE website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/amistad/njrs/>.

If you have any questions regarding the fair, please contact The Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair at (732) 305-7003, or for questions regarding the Rising Scholar application, contact Shara Floyd at the Amistad Commission office at (609) 984-6428 or amistad@doe.state.nj.us or visit www.hbcu-cfnj.com.

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