

## **NJDOE News**

Contact: Richard Vespucci For Release: September 15, 2000

## **Advisory - New Jersey School Counselor Initiative**

## Note: Media are Invited and Encouraged to Attend

The New Jersey Department of Education will host a conference on Tuesday, September 19, 2000 to promote a major new statewide initiative to enhance the ability of local educators to provide all students opportunities for career awareness and career exploration.

The department will launch the New Jersey School Counselor Initiative in a half-day conference scheduled to be held at the Cherry Hill Hilton, Route 70, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The initiative will be implemented over the next three years.

Tuesday's kickoff event is designed to help familiarize local school leaders – particularly school principals and school counselors – with how they can use the initiative to meet student developmental needs, in the career, personal/social and academic areas of growth. In addition, the initiative will serve as one way to assist local educators in their activities to meet state regulations to implement a K-12 developmental career guidance and career awareness program.

The conference will feature keynote remarks from Dr. Carol Dahir, lead author of the *National Standards for School Counseling*. Other speakers at the conference include Dr. Thomas A. Henry, director of the Department of Education's Office of School-to-Career and College Initiatives, and Janet Carlson Giardina, immediate past president of the New Jersey School Counselors Association and coordinator of the new initiative.

Conference registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program begins at 10 a.m. The event is expected to conclude by 1 p.m.