



NJDOE News

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**Governor Whitman and Education Commissioner Hespe
Launch Video Distance Learning Service for Students and Teachers**

State House Media Advisory

EVENT: Governor Whitman will be at the Bergen County Academy for

Advancement of Science and Technology in Hackensack, along with

Mr. Dennis Bone, President of Verizon, to launch both (1) the Video Portal that is connecting schools across New Jersey and (2) the Virtual Academy: NJPEP (Professional Education Program) that provides interactive professional development for teachers . A demonstration of the new high speed distance learning system will allow teachers and students from across the state to participate in a discussion with the Governor about the *Origin of Prejudice*.

WHEN: Wednesday, Sept. 27. Arrive by 12:45 for 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. event.

WHERE: State House press are invited to cover the event at our site, the New Jersey Department of Education, 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, in the first floor Conference Room. Commissioner Hespe will be participating from this site via one of the video portals.

BACKGROUND:

In addition to the Hackensack and Trenton sites mentioned above, teachers and students will be participating via video connection from Vineland High School North, West Deptford Middle School, Ocean County Vo-Tech School, and the Brimm Medical Arts High School in Camden City. Rutgers University helped develop the professional development curriculum on the Virtual Academy: NJPEP website and Dr. Louise Wilkinson, Dean of the Graduate School of Education will participate in the discussion from the Trenton site.