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Department of Education Presents I.D.E.A.S. Awards to Innovative Educators

The New Jersey Department of Education has awarded stipends to 21 educators across the state for their proposals to implement the Cross-Content Workplace Readiness Standards. The program, called *Workplace Readiness I.D.E.A.S. (Incentive for Demonstrating Excellence in Academic Standards)*, encourages teachers and counselors to develop instructional models to enhance student achievement of the Cross-Content Workplace Readiness Standards.

The Cross-Content Workplace Readiness Standards, adopted by the State Board of Education in May 1996, aim to ensure that students in New Jersey will develop competencies for achieving success in the world of work. The five Cross-Content Workplace Readiness Standards address career planning, use of information and technology, critical thinking, self management, and safety.

"This award program is our way of searching for locally developed programs that can be used as models to help students learn career-oriented skills and knowledge to perform better in the workplace," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "It also provides much-deserved recognition to educators who have met the challenge of making the Cross-Content Workplace Readiness Standards an important part of the curriculum."

I.D.E.A.S. makes available state-funded stipends of up to \$4,000 for each proposal selected that best meets the objectives of the program. Applicants were asked to describe the general curricular concept, its relevance to the integration of the Cross-Content Workplace Readiness Standards into one or more academic content standards, its potential for replication by others, and any proposed expenditures.

Applications were evaluated and ranked in a two-phase process. First, they were reviewed by the local Workforce Investment Board. Then, they were sent to a sponsoring committee for review by representatives from the Department of Education's Office of Vocational-Technical, Career and Adult Programs.

The winners of the awards are:

Donna Ballengee and Patricia Loughlin, Readington Township
Lizabeth Buoro, Cape May County Special Services
Pam Burnell and Karol Bucci, Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School
Theresa D'Aromando, Farmingdale
Pamela Davis, Eastside High School, Paterson
H. Glen Donelson, Pennsville
Cindy Eckert, Williamstown High School
Timothy Frederiks and Patricia Lindsley, Hopatcong Borough
Janet Carlson Giardina and Denise King, Memorial School, Willingboro
Hermena P. Goodson, Fort Lee High School, Fort Lee
Vince Kappler, Donna Nowicki and Chuck Toye, Hunterdon County Vocational School
Adria K. Kelly, Fort Lee High School
Eileen Lidon and Karen Brown, Keansburg
Maya Matulic, J.W. Wakeman School, Jersey City
Beverly M. McGowan, Pittsgrove Township
Ellen Nickerson, Millville
Al Pecora, Passaic County Technical Institute
Patricia Phillips and Dr. Lynn Matthews, Moorestown High School
Luella Vengenock and JoAnn Corvino, Alloway Township
Barbara Yekenchik, Southern Regional High School
Bob Zentmeyer, Eagle Academy, Egg Harbor Township

For more information about this program, contact the Office of Vocational-Technical, Career and Adult Programs, 877-652-2733.