

## **NJDOE News**

For More Information Contact the Public Information Office: Jon Zlock Kathryn Forsyth, Director 609-292-1126

For Release: June 23, 2004

## **208 Byrd Scholars** Announced by Commissioner Librera

The Department of Education is pleased to announce that 208 New Jersey students have been selected as 2004 Robert C. Byrd Scholarship winners.

The federal scholarship program is administered by the New Jersey Department of Education. The scholarships are awarded to the most academically talented members of high school graduating classes. The students compete against other applicants within each of New Jersey's 13 congressional districts.

"Anytime we have the opportunity to recognize excellence in the classroom, we take it," Commissioner Librera said. "These students are among the best in New Jersey and we are so very proud to recognize them. Their school districts, family members and others should be as well. On behalf of the department, I'd like to congratulate this year's Byrd Scholarship winners and wish them continued success in the future."

Scholarship winners receive \$1,500 a year, contingent on federal funding, for four years of study at any accredited college or university. Students who maintain full-time status and exhibit satisfactory academic progress are entitled to renew the scholarship each year.

More than 1,500 applications were received. The winners were selected based on their college entrance examination scores, class rankings, grade point averages, and other factors, including academic honors and responses to an essay question. Applicants must be legal New Jersey residents and be nominated by their schools.

For more information about the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, or New Jersey's 2004 scholarship recipients, contact Sue Sliker, program administrator, at 609-777-0800. <u>A list of award winners is attached</u>.