



For Immediate Release

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New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Appoints Colleen Tambuscio as Executive Director

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education today announced that Colleen Tambuscio, a nationally recognized educator and leader in Holocaust and genocide education, has been appointed as executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.

As executive director, Tambuscio will lead the Commission's efforts to strengthen Holocaust and genocide education through curriculum development, educator training, community partnerships, and public programming. She replaces Douglas Cervi, who is retiring after serving for six years as executive director of the Commission.

"Colleen Tambuscio has dedicated her life to ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust remain relevant and meaningful for future generations," **said Maud Dahme, the Chair of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.** "Her extraordinary record of educational leadership, her commitment to students and teachers, and her vision for Holocaust education make her uniquely qualified to lead the Commission into its next chapter."

"Colleen Tambuscio brings a wealth of experience in Holocaust education," **said Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner of Education.** "She has the knowledge and insight to ensure New Jersey's educators have the tools they need to transform these events in history into powerful lessons learned for our students, and to elevate awareness in communities throughout the state. We are pleased to welcome her to the position."

Tambuscio received a bachelor's degree in education of the hearing impaired from Trenton State College and a master's in Jewish-Christian Studies and Holocaust Education from Seton Hall University. She began her career in 1984, teaching deaf students through Bergen County Special Services, where she first introduced Holocaust education to her students.

She went on to teach special education and a social studies elective at New Milford High School from 2002 until her retirement in 2024. While at New Milford, she developed a semester-long Holocaust studies course and annually led students in immersive education visits to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and toured Holocaust-related sites in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

Having served on the Commission on Holocaust Education since 2021, Tambuscio stepped down from her role as a Commission member in order to assume the role of executive director. Her official start date was July 1.

As founder and president of the New Jersey Council of Holocaust Educators, Tambuscio has created professional development opportunities and collaborative networks for educators. In addition, she has worked with Alexandra Zapruder, author of *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*, to develop educational materials used by educators worldwide.

She has served on the Board of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education at Ramapo College since 2002, and in 2010 she participated in the United Jewish Appeal Federation's Partnership 2000 program in Nahariya, Israel, where she worked to foster dialogue and understanding between Israeli communities and American high school students.

"I am deeply honored to serve as executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education," **said Tambuscio.** "At a time when antisemitism, racism, and intolerance continue to threaten democratic values, Holocaust education remains essential. I look forward to working with educators, students, survivors, and communities across New Jersey to ensure that the lessons of this history continue to guide future generations."

Additional information is available on the [Commission's webpage](#).



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