New Jersey Department of Education

The Amistad Commission

New Jersey State Board of Education Presentation April 5, 2023





General Overview/Focus

- Teacher and student learning with the infusion of Africans and African Americans into the narrative of American and world history.
- Assuring that New Jersey public school students and teachers have the resources to accomplish the intent of the legislation.
- Creating new partnerships with educational agencies in New Jersey to raise awareness about the Amistad Commission.



Goals of the Amistad Commission and Legislation

- 1. Infuse the history of Africans and African Americans into the curriculum.
- 2. Provide professional development, in-service workshops, supportive resources/tools, and residential summer institutes for New Jersey teachers.
- 3. Create curriculum support materials that help teachers to effectively teach content aligned to the revised core curriculum content standards and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
- 4. Assist in developing lesson plans in accordance with a variety of subject areas.
- 5. Survey, design, encourage, and promote the implementation of education and awareness programs.



Past Accomplishments 2013 - 2021



- Summer Institutes: engaged 835 teachers
- Professional development sessions for teachers: 32 sessions engaging 264 teachers
- National History Day: engaged over 250 students and 100 teachers from New Jersey annually





Top Priorities in 2023



Creating a New Functional Interactive Website

a. Providing the right resources and trainings for teachers, administrators, parents, school districts/boards, and general community.

Restructure the Summer Institute: A Multi-Day Statewide Event (July 17-20, 2023)

- a. Focus on grades K-6, 6-8, and 9-12.
- b. One-week experiential learning tour for teachers and administrators in partnership with African American Tours.
- c. School year long institute training series to provide tools, resources, and trainings for teachers.
- d.Improve NJ teacher awareness of Amistad legislation. (I-Hearts partnership)



Top Priorities in 2023 (Continued)



New Staffing Model to Meet Regional Statewide Needs

- a. Establish Regional Program Coordinator positions.
- b. Create Internship program partnerships with university partners.

Establish a Strategic Planning Council and Create a Five-Year Strategic Plan

- a. Meet the intent and purpose of the legislation.
- b. Establish better partnerships with a variety of educational and community organizations.
- c. Establish a clear assessment plan to measure program success.
- Increase district, teacher, and student participation.
- Increase Amistad Commission awareness statewide.



Thank You!



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Dr. Patrick Lamy, Executive Director

New Jersey Amistad Commission

Patrick.Lamy@doe.nj.gov

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