



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Governor

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October 1, 2013

TO: Chief School Administrators of High School Districts
Charter School Lead Persons (High Schools)
Directors of Guidance
District School Boards
Non-Public Advisory Committee Members
Public & non public High School Principals

FROM: Stephanie James Wilson
Executive Director, Amistad Commission, NJDOE

SUBJECT: **REMINDER: The 2013 Malcolm Bernard Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Fair and The New Jersey Rising Scholars Awards Program**

It is my pleasure to remind you that the New Jersey Department of Education/Amistad Commission is once again collaborating with the *Malcolm Bernard Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Fair of New Jersey* and the *New Jersey Rising Scholars Award Program*. The week-long fair capstoned with the Rising Scholars recognition luncheon, will be an excellent opportunity for institutions of higher education to meet New Jersey's students and share the rich legacy and opportunities that an HBCU can offer.

This year's fair is scheduled for **November 16-21, 2013** at five regional sites throughout New Jersey. A flyer providing the date, time and location for each fair is attached.

This year's fair features:

- College application fee waivers,
- On-site admissions acceptance,
- Guest speakers,
- Panel discussions, and
- Workshops for educators, students, and parents that focus on the necessary tools to pursue post-secondary education and succeed in institutions of higher education

In addition to having an opportunity for an interview with over **40** HBCU campus admissions representatives and/or being provided with very useful information about a specific college, New Jersey seniors will be treated to motivational speakers and college-readiness workshops.

In recent years, approximately **12,000** students have participated annually in the *Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair Week*. This year's 2013 college fair marks the **15th year anniversary** of offering invaluable experiences to over **100,000** high school seniors. They learn the tremendous worth of attending an HBCU. The fair has inspired many of them to see all dreams are possible, to aim for their dreams, and to realize their aspirations.

I extend an invitation and ask for your participation and encourage you to continue to provide this invaluable opportunity to your students. You may register your student group using the Amistad Commission link:

2013 Malcolm Bernard Historically Black Colleges & Universities College Fair

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/amistad/>

or

The Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair

<http://www.hbcu-cfnj.com/reg>

For your added convenience, the high school registration forms for the college fairs are also attached.

Select the location that best accommodates your school and make the necessary arrangements to schedule the event for your high school students, juniors and seniors. In addition, please post the attached flyer in your school. Finally, we ask that you help to prepare the participating students to ensure their experience affords them the greatest opportunity. Prior preparations include taking the SAT or ACT, at least once before the college fair and for seniors and bringing a printout of the *online* college applications to bring with them to the fair.

2013 New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program / HBCU Rising Scholars Fund Scholarship

The 2013 New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program recognizes high school seniors from diverse backgrounds in the 2014 graduating class, who: are leaders in their school and communities; are interested in attending an HBCU; have taken the SAT or ACT at least once; and have a defined career and/or educational goals.

The 2013 New Jersey Recognition Program Guidelines and Application will be available early September on the department's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/equity>.

Eligibility has been broadened to include students with a minimum 2.5 GPA and 1350 SAT score

In addition, students selected as 2013 Rising Scholars may also be eligible to receive the ***HBCU Rising Scholars Fund Scholarship***. Based on the availability of funds, this non-recurring scholarship will be awarded by *The Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair, Inc.* to a select number of incoming college freshman, who enroll in an *Historically Black College or University* in the fall of 2014 and demonstrate a need for financial assistance.

If you have any questions regarding the college fair or the *Rising Scholar* application, please contact:

Shara Floyd
New Jersey Amistad Commission
(609)984-6428
amistad@doe.state.nj.us or visit

www.HBCU-CFNJ.com.

Attachments:

- High school registration forms 5 locations
- 2013 HBCU Week "Save the Date" flyer

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Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education
Christopher Cerf
Tracey Severns
Senior Staff
Pam Castellanos
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers (RAC)
Barbara Bernard
Garden State Coalition
LEE Group