January 27, 2014

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: INVITATION: The Amistad Summit
From Legislation to Implementation: Amistad & New Jersey’s Education Revolution

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the New Jersey Department of Education/Amistad Commission summit entitled, “From Legislation to Implementation: Amistad and New Jersey’s Education Revolution. The Amistad Summit will be held:

Saturday, February 1, 2014
10am - 5pm
Rutgers University, Busch Student Center
604 Bartholomew Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854

You may register online at http://education.state.nj.us/events

In collaboration with the Africana Studies Department of Rutgers-New Brunswick; Drew University’s Pan-African Studies Program; the Education Committee of the NJ National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Essex County College’s Adjunct Faculty Association Montclair State University’s African American Studies Program; and the Urban Issues Institute at Essex County College, the Amistad Commission is convening an all-day session to discuss issues surrounding the implementation of the Public Law 2002, Chapter 75, which created the Amistad Commission.
In an era of fiscal austerity, education reform and assessment, and high teacher turnover in our K-12 schools across the state of New Jersey, it is incumbent on those of us who are in the education field to stay aware of challenges and to advocate for continued quality education for all young people, and to play active roles in the shaping of their minds and life chances.

The mission of the Amistad Commission is to ensure that our primary and secondary school social science courses are equipped with the resources and teaching personnel that allow for the proper integration of educational awareness programs regarding the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the many contributions Africans have made to the present-day United States since its colonial origins in the seventeenth century; and to keep the community and stakeholders aware of our progress.

I extend an invitation and ask for your participation and encourage you to continue to provide this invaluable opportunity to you and to your students.

You may register using the Amistad Summit at:

http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=20258

If you have any questions regarding registering for the summit, please contact:

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

SJW/IAQ/sf.x/amistad/AmistadSummit/itr

c: Members, State Board of Education
Christopher Cerf
Tracey Severns
Senior Staff
Secretary of Higher Education
Pam Castellanos
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers (RAC)
Garden State Coalition
LEE Group
Africana Studies Department of Rutgers-New Brunswick
Drew University’s Pan-African Studies Program
the Education Committee of the NAACP
Essex County College’s Adjunct Faculty Association
Montclair State University’s African American Studies Program;
Urban Issues Institute at Essex County College,