TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

ROUTE TO: Principals

FROM: Peter Shulman, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Talent Officer
Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness

SUBJECT: Governor’s Educator of the Year Program

The New Jersey Department of Education is pleased to announce the application process for the 2014-15 Governor’s Educator of the Year (GEOY) Program. This new program integrates the Teacher of the Year Program with the Governor’s Teacher/Educational Services Professional Recognition Program to recognize the hard work of outstanding teachers and educational services professionals.

This integrated program will:

- Increase the rigor of selection and the number of outstanding educators being recognized for their hard work and dedication;
- Streamline and improve processes for districts in selecting honored educators; and
- Create a more comprehensive program.

We strongly encourage every school to participate by selecting one teacher and one educational services professional to be recognized at the school level. The teacher awardees will then have the chance to vie for recognition at the county, state, and national levels. Schools taking part in educator recognition programs have found participation to promote a culture that recognizes excellence, creates a sense of pride, and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators.

The Governor’s Educator of the Year Program entails very similar procedures to what has been in place, with a few enhancements:

- All documents including application details and timelines are available online at: http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/rpr/recognition/educators/geoy;
- Each school will have a uniform nomination process and selection process;
- Each school is encouraged to honor one teacher and one educational services professional;
• Award certificates for a school's awardees will automatically be generated when each honoree is registered in the GEOY online form found on the Homeroom website (http://homeroom.state.nj.us); and
• Each 2014-15 teacher selected for the school-level award can now compete for the county-level award.

We ask that you please be attentive to the updated procedures, criteria, and review this information carefully prior to beginning the application process. In addition, we recommend disseminating the attached 2014-15 School-Level Nomination Packet and Appendices to building principals in a timely manner in order to adhere to the program timelines. Note that all school-level award winners must be registered online (http://homeroom.state.nj.us) by December 19, 2014 in order to receive their certificates.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact your County Office of Education or Nancy Besant, the Department's Recognition Programs Coordinator, at Nancy.Besant@doe.state.nj.us.

I hope that all schools and districts will take the opportunity to recognize the hard work of our dedicated and outstanding educators in New Jersey.