



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Acting Commissioner

September 23, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators of High School Districts
Charter School Lead Person (High Schools)
Public High School Principals
Directors of Guidance
Non-Public Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Stephanie James Wilson
Executive Director, The Amistad Commission

SUBJECT: **The 2014 Malcolm Bernard Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Fair of New Jersey and the New Jersey Rising Scholars Program**

I am pleased to announce that the Amistad Commission - New Jersey Department of Education will once again collaborate 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 awards ceremony, 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 will be held at five (5) regional sites throughout New Jersey, **November 16-20, 2014**.

As with past fairs, this year's fair will feature:

- 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 recent years, approximately 12,000 students have participated annually in the Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair Week. In addition to the valuable information that the 40+ HBCU campus admissions representatives provide at each event, New Jersey students have benefited from workshops, motivational speakers and college-readiness programs that are presented. This experience has inspired many of them to reach for their dreams and to fulfill their aspirations. I encourage you to continue to provide this opportunity to your students and add one of the following Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair events to your 2014-2015 school calendars of events.

Monday, November 17, 2014 (Morning)

Passaic County Community College
1 College Avenue, Paterson NJ 07505

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Susquehanna Bank Center
1 Harbor Boulevard, Camden NJ 08103

Monday, November 17, 2014 (Afternoon)

Essex County College
303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Raritan Valley Community College
118 Lamington Road, Branchburg NJ 08876

The 2014 New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program and the 2014 HBCU Rising Scholars Fund Scholarship

The New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program will recognize high school seniors graduating in school year 2014-2015 who are leaders in their school and communities. The program acknowledges students from diverse backgrounds who are interested in attending an HBCU and have defined career and educational goals. It culminates with an awards ceremony in the Trenton area, **Sunday, November 16, 2014**. In addition, students selected as 2014 NJ 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 2015 and need financial assistance.

Eligibility has been broadened to include students with a 2.5 GPA and 1350 SAT score or better. Encourage your upcoming high school seniors to take the SAT or ACT to ensure full consideration. The 2014 New Jersey Recognition Program Guidelines and Application is available on the NJDOE website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/amistad/>

If you have any questions regarding the fair or the Rising Scholar application, please contact Shara Floyd at the Amistad Commission office at (609)984-6428 or amistad@doe.state.nj.us or www.hbcu-cfnj.com/ for more information.

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Attachment

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- David C. Hespe, Acting Commissioner
- Kimberley Harrington, Interim Chief Academic Officer
- Senior Staff
- Diane Shoener
- Amy Ruck
- Pam Castellanos
- Executive County Superintendents
- Regional Achievement Center Executive Director
- Executive County of Schools Business Officials
- Garden State Coalition
- LEE Group
- Barbara Bernard