TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons  
Public and Nonpublic High School Principals  
Guidance Counselors  

FROM: David C. Hespe  
Acting Commissioner  

SUBJECT: Prudential Spirit of Community Awards  
Application deadline: November 4, 2014  

I am pleased to inform you that the application period for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is now open. The program was created in 1995 by Prudential in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) to honor students in grades 5-12 for outstanding service to others at the local, state, and national level.

The program's goals are to applaud young people who already are making a positive difference in their towns and neighborhoods and to inspire others to think about how they might contribute to their communities. New Jersey’s top middle school and high school youth volunteers for 2015 will be announced February 10 and brought to Washington, D.C., next May for four days of special recognition events, along with the top two applications from every other state and the District of Columbia.

If you know any deserving students who would be interested in applying for this award program, please direct them to the online application and related materials at http://spirit.prudential.com or www.nassp.org/spirit. Student applications are due by November 4, 2014. There are several levels of awards given including Certificates of Excellence, engraved bronze medallions, and financial awards. State honorees receive $1000 and an all-expense paid trip with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C.

In the past, the recipients from New Jersey have been extraordinary and we expect many exceptional applications will be submitted again this year.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.
c: Members, State Board of Education
   Senior Staff
   Executive County Superintendents
   Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
   Executive County Business Officials
   Mary Jane Kurabinski
   Marie Barry
   Karen Campbell
   Greg Kocher
   Beverly Plein
   NJ LEE Group
   Garden State Coalition of Schools