December 15, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrators
    Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons
    Directors of Special Education

FROM: Peggy McDonald, Executive Director
      Office of Special Education Programs

SUBJECT: Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conferences

The Office of Special Education Programs is sponsoring regional Dare to Dream Student Leadership conferences that highlight strategies and information to prepare students with disabilities for college and career. Each conference features keynote presentations from accomplished students and young adults with disabilities who have demonstrated exemplary self-advocacy and leadership skills. Additionally, the conference program includes a variety of concurrent workshop sessions that provide conference attendees opportunities to gain insight into the transition from school to adult life process. The conference gives students the opportunity to participate in workshops led by their peers on topics such as: self-discovery, student self-advocacy, learning styles, developing a career path, and understanding your rights and responsibilities in college. Dare to Dream has long been a positive and empowering experience for thousands of New Jersey’s students.

I would like to urge you to encourage your students to participate in this worthwhile conference. Due to the popularity of this event, registration priority is given to districts that have students presenting a breakout session, musical performance or keynote presentation. Student registration and participation in a regional Dare to Dream Student Leadership conference can be secured through the contact information provided below.

There is no charge to students or staff for the conference. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided to all participants. Professional staff from your district must accompany students to the conference in sufficient numbers to ensure adequate supervision of your students throughout the day. If you have questions regarding the conference, or if your students wish to conduct a workshop or keynote, please contact Bob Haugh at (609) 633-6431. Please visit the following link for registration information: http://education.state.nj.us/specialed/.

PM/LDN/bh

cc: Members, State Board of Education
    Commissioner David C. Hespe
    Senior Staff
    Diane Shoener
    Executive County Superintendents
    Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
    Executive County Business Officials
    County Supervisors of Child Study
    Garden State Coalition of Schools
    NJ LEE Group