

New Jersey Department of Education

THE AMISTAD COMMISSION

FY16 ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted
**New Jersey General Legislature
and
Legislative Black Caucus**

by

Stephanie James Wilson, Executive Director
April 26, 2016

FY16 Overview and Accomplishments, Status and Financials

The New Jersey Amistad Commission was legislated in 2002 by Assembly bill A1301, introduced by Assemblymen William D. Payne and Craig Stanley. The Amistad Commission has been diligently striving to fulfill the directives of the Amistad legislation within these austere budget times with notable accomplishments.

The legislated mandate requires that all New Jersey schools incorporate African-American history into their K-12 Social Studies curriculum. This legislation also created the Amistad Commission, a 23 member body charged with ensuring that African American's historical content, contribution and experiences are intrinsically taught in the state's classroom on a daily basis and fully infused and intertwined throughout all district curriculums, classroom lessons, primary sources, testing, and presentations. Over the last several years we have become a national model for the revision of Social Studies education in this country. New Jersey was first in the nation to pass this legislation and has served to instruct other states through the process of creating curriculum resources, implementation plans, and training materials in fulfillment of the new statewide mandates for Social Studies.

This state level Commission charged with the surveying, design, promotion and the implementation of public educational awareness programs in New Jersey concerned with the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in our country, and the contributions of African-Americans in building our country; has matured in focus and in the reconstruction of K-12 Social Studies education within our state and across the country in numerous ways:

Inclusion on Social Studies Content Standards Team -

- In 2008, 2012, and 2014, members of the Board of Amistad Commissioner's curriculum team and the Executive Director served as a member of the Social Studies Standards Task Force in the NJ Department of Education – tasked to rewrite and revise the Social Studies content standards for instruction for all teachers in New Jersey that included the recommendations of the Amistad Commission for compliance of this instructional and resource infusion mandate. Statewide compliance to these new standards and their respective cumulative progress indicators (CPI's) was in the 2012-2014 school term.
- The Executive Director has been an on-going contributor for the Division of Teaching and Learning as they have been reviewing the Social Studies standards for revisions and the ELA curriculum for the Common Core

standards alignments for the new K-12. The revised Social Studies standards were adopted in all districts during the 2014-2015 school term.

National Model for Infused Curriculum Resource Development for Social Studies -

- Became the first in the nation to undertake the development of a comprehensive historically inclusive web-based curriculum for New Jersey Educators in response to the public's appeal for a model curriculum that fully illuminates the legislated Social Studies course of study. The curriculum chronicles the K-12 Social Studies curriculum for the state, inclusive of African-American influence, history, and accomplishments. With thirteen (13) units of study, divided by time periods as specified in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Social Studies, our curriculum includes sample PARCC assessments, historical overviews, lesson plans, PowerPoints, biographies, interactive maps, timelines, primary source documents, videos, audios, and music, and classroom activities for students in each respective grade. All of these elements will be laid out in a consistent, user-friendly format. The online curriculum resource provides for New Jersey's districts United States History course and content pacing, lesson plan templates, sample lesson plans, and rubrics for replication.
- The 2014 Amistad Curriculum website completion allowed for major design update and mandatory alignments for the current common core directives; in addition to a significant amount of new content for English/ Language Arts teachers designed around the Common Core State Standards. New features will include the ability for teachers to create student accounts and classes, a text-to-speech capability to assist struggling readers, and content level correlations with both Common Core and N.J. content standards. The activities and resources should be used in all Social Studies classes, as well as interdisciplinary courses, elementary, middle school and high school, which can include American History courses, Language Arts courses, Art courses, Music courses, etc., in all 600 plus NJ school districts. This comprehensive password-protected web resource is available to every teacher in New Jersey, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week free of charge. The updated site debuted during the 2014-2015 school year and training sessions on the site have been commencing throughout the state with districts, schools or cohorts of Educators that have made requests of the office. The address for the Amistad web-based curriculum site is: www.NJAmistadCurriculum.org

- The Amistad Commission released in May 2010 a collaborative curriculum resource guide for educators in partnership with the Holocaust Commission on the subject of “Genocide” across history. This topical curriculum resource is a collection of articles, lesson plans and activities that can be used K-12 within the Humanities. It fulfills several content standards and CPI’s for Social Studies instruction and can be used for compliances with both the Holocaust mandate and the Amistad mandate (Economics, World and US history, as well as Civics).

Complementary Curriculum Audits and District level Assistance in Accordance to the Mandate-

- Meeting and reviewing with Executive and District Superintendents on the mandated directives for social Studies instruction implementation of Social Studies curriculum directives and the development of curriculum resources for the 600 plus NJ school districts.

Professional Development for Educators across NJ-

- Organized and facilitated teacher training as well as administrative trainings on the new Social Studies curriculum requisites and the new available resources, including the Amistad web-based curriculum resource, for compliance under the revised Social studies standards and the cumulative progress indicators put forth by the New Jersey standards that are in compliance with this mandate.
- In support of the curriculum prototype release in 2009, the Amistad Commission began an extensive professional development curriculum training module for New Jersey teachers and school districts curriculum specialist within their respective districts in September 2009. The Commission has been all over the state facilitating professional development training with the Executive Superintendents, District Superintendents, Principals, District Curriculum Leads, and the Teachers. To date we have facilitated over 300 trainings and have trained more than 4,000 NJ teachers, and administrators throughout the state. Trainings will continue until we reach all 600 plus New Jersey school districts. In partnership with the presentation of the new Social Studies web-based curriculum resource, these trainings also highlight utilization of the new Social Studies standards, the new directives for Social Studies instruction under this mandate and the importance of the integration of 21st Century technologies within classroom instruction.

- The Amistad Commission successfully executed two Summer Institutes- the inaugural institute at Rowan University and the eighth annual Curriculum Institute for Teachers in August 2014 on the campus of Montclair State University. In 2015, the Commission offered the second institute at Stockton University in Glassboro. All three of the institutes are becoming flagships for the Commission. This summer, FY 17, the two summer institutes is scheduled to be held at Bloomfield College and at Rowan University.

The Institutes are residential program designed for elementary and secondary social studies teachers, supervisors and administrators to learn additional methodological techniques in teaching American history, seamlessly infused with African-American content. This consortium gives Educators access to prominent historians and scholars from various higher education institutions throughout the country. Participants explore the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, the PARCC assessment requirements for students, lesson ideas, and professional development methodologies used in the Amistad K-12 state wide curriculum; as well as study texts, topics, and ideas central to elementary and secondary social studies and English/Language Arts education.

The Focus for last summer was on the Commemoration and school segregation as its effectuated varied community in American with consideration of race and religion. The 50th Anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision was the central theme.

- Two Summer Institutes will commence in the summer of 2016; (July 25-27, 2016 and August 1-3, 2016) the inaugural institute at Bloomfield College and the second annual Institute at Rowan University. Central focus for this year's institutes is the Reconstruction Era, a painful period in American History in which America moved from the Civil War footing to a political movement to resolve issues. In addition, cross curricular offerings focus on art, music, literature and mathematics.
- Central focus for the Summer Institute includes an extensive tutorial with the Amistad web-based curriculum in relations to the Common Core standards adoption and the onset of the PARCC assessments. With the onset of the highly anticipated curriculum release, the Commission recognized the necessity to expand its Summer Institute opportunities for Educators to provide extensive training opportunities for the multitude of district curriculum specialists and classroom teachers that will require training for statewide compliance with the Amistad legislation and with the shift to the

common core. The Summer Institutes has historically provided the extensive training, content knowledge of current scholarship in American History with an understanding of the significant contributions of African-Americans and teaching methodology necessary for our participants to turn –key the experience into subsequent district trainings and curriculum revisions throughout the state the next school year. Applications for participation are available on the Amistad website.

Public Programming and Memorializations on the Contributions of African Americans -

- National Presentations - The Amistad Commissioners have made several presentations throughout the country in regards to our implementation plans, curriculum resource materials, signature teaching strategies, and training modules. The Commission has historically presented an education session every year at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Convention in Washington, D.C. for the legislators and constituents across the country. The Commission has also done presentations at the United Nations in New York and is the national role model for other states implementing their own Amistad Commission. Within the last few years, our Commission has done presentations to the New York Amistad Commission as well as the Illinois Amistad Commission, both headed by the Secretary of State in their respective states. We have taken the lead as the flagship state for operationalizing this educational policy initiative.
- Over the course of the last year, the Amistad Commission has become a community partner with the United Nations - UNESCO *Remember Slavery* project- and have co-sponsored or organized several events to mark the 20th anniversary of the *UNESCO Slave Route Project* centered on developing and sharing techniques to teach NJ/NY Metro parents, community and students about slavery. The Amistad Commission has partnered and collaborating with UNESCO and area colleges on various panels, the creation and the distribution of curriculum materials.
- **Global Timbuktu K-12 Project** -teacher/student exchange project is part of the larger initiative, the Rutgers Center for African Studies year-long “Global Timbuktu: Meanings and Narratives of Resistance in Africa and the Americas” organized by Professors Carolyn Brown (Rutgers) and Paul Lovejoy (York University, Canada). Focusing on Timbuktu--the town in Mali and its namesakes in the United State

- Teaching History through film- collaborations and partnerships with Movie Studios & representatives - The Amistad Commission has been the host of several major motion pictures and independent films that focus on topics in the African diaspora. The Commission co-sponsored free private screenings for Educators with curriculum materials, panel discussion & Q&A
 - **12 YEARS A SLAVE** - curriculum guide and free movie offer for all New Jersey teachers
 - **BELLE** – curriculum guide and free movie offer for classroom libraries for all New Jersey teachers
 - **TULA, THE REVOLT** –free screening and panel discussion with Danny Glover
 - **SELMA** - in partnership with the United Nations, free movie screenings, free curriculum guide and a free copy of the film video for the every school libraries for all New Jersey teachers, as well as panel discussion with Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon and Ava DuVernay, **SELMA**’s director.
 - **RACE**- Based on the incredible true story of Jesse Owens, the legendary athletic superstar whose quest to become the greatest track and field athlete in history thrusts him onto the world stage of the 1936 Olympics, where he faces off against Adolf Hitler’s vision of Aryan supremacy. “Race” is an enthralling film about courage, determination, tolerance, and friendship, and an inspiring drama about one man’s fight to become an Olympic legend.
- For the past 10 years, the Amistad Commission has partnered with the Department of Education and the **Malcolm Bernard Historically Black College and Universities College Fair of New Jersey** in planning and orchestrating the New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program and Trenton College Fair every November. This annual program is the third Sunday in November, and honors the academic excellence achieved by high school seniors throughout the state who are interested in attending a historically black college or university (HBCU). The Department of Education in collaboration with the Amistad Commission and the Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair of New Jersey recognizes more than 75 students as Rising Scholars annually. The recognition program is highly competitive. NJ Rising Scholars are eligible to receive the HBCU Rising Scholars Fund book scholarship contingent upon their enrollment in an HBCU. This year the program will expand to pilot a New Jersey college with a sizeable minority population, Bloomfield College.

- The Amistad Commission has also co-sponsored a myriad of events, programs, and conferences this fiscal year alone with many organizations: including national and state organizations and non-profit institutions such as the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington D.C, the NAACP, the National Urban League, The NJ Black Issues Conference, the NJEA, the National Council for Social Studies and the NJ Council for Social Studies, the NJ Department of Education, the Association of Black Educators, the Newark Black Film Festival, the New Jersey Historical Society, the African American Museum in Philadelphia, the Holocaust Commission, the Housing Authority, Interstate Realty, Juvenile Justice Center, Essex County College, Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair of NJ, Montclair State University, Rutgers University, and Drew University.

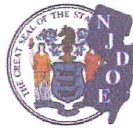
Fiscal Concerns:

- As a state agency we are in full recognition of the realities of our financial times, and we are all competing for limited monies; our mission and mandate as an educational policy commission that effectuates the universal K-12 learning of all the students of New Jersey necessitates our ability to maintain the depth and breadth of our portfolio of curriculum trainings, professional development opportunities for Educators, and ancillary programs, as they were mandated in our charter.
- The Commission historic yearly battle for a budget allocation has already ushered us into the reality of trimming the fat and while creatively finding ways to still deliver the level of services that our constituents have come to expect from us. We are operationalizing a legal mandate- and must have adequate resources to do so the upcoming fiscal year. We have been in flux in regards to our funding since 2009 when we were redlined from the State budget and then zeroed out from the Secretary of State's budget.
- In the interim we had our carry over monies absorbed by a newly created umbrella division called the Division of Programs at the Department of State; moved to the Department of Education with zero funds and one staff person when we were eliminated from the Department of State; and even during our current tenure at the Department of Education, have yet to be given a specified budget line item or specific allocation at the Department of Education. The Amistad Commission annually is left at the mercy of the leftover available funds that are found within the Department of Education budget at their directive as to the amount of monies allocated to the Commission.

- We are “in but not of” the Department of Education. According to our Commission by-laws, our budget is set before and adopted by our Board of Commissioners. Historically this budget amount was then incorporated into the State budget proposed to the Governor. In 2009 and 2011 we were red-lined out of that budget and our monies had to be found within the current department we were housed within – which is currently the Department of Education - we have encountered in certain budget years the availability of full funding to support our initiatives as set forth by the Board of Commissioners.
- The FY 2017 budget will be introduced to the Amistad Board of Commissioners on April 29, 2016 at our commission meeting for **\$593,985.13** to be submitted to the Department of Education.

It is the Commission’s humble request that the operating and programming budget of **\$565,485.130**, which includes salaries, so that the Amistad Commission may be upheld and supported by this body and permit us to continue this much needed work in FY16.

The Amistad Commission can be reached at 609-984-6428(office) Stephanie James Wilson Cell- 856-952-5658 amistad@doe.state.nj.us



THE AMISTAD COMMISSION

Highlights

2016

The Amistad Commission created by Public Law 2002, Chapter 75, which was sponsored by Assemblymen William D. Payne and Craig Stanley, diligently strives each year fulfill the directives of the Amistad Commission and meet the mandates and spirit of the law even during austere budget times. We are proud to proclaim our successes and notable accomplishments.

The Amistad law requires that all New Jersey schools incorporate African- American history into their K-12 Social Studies curriculum to be monitored by the members of the Amistad Commission that is charged with ensuring that African American's historical content, contribution and experiences are intrinsically taught in the state's classroom on a daily basis and fully infused and intertwined throughout all district curriculums, classroom lessons, primary sources, testing, and presentations. Over the last several years we have become a national model for the revision of Social Studies education in this country. In 2015 the Commission has been contacted by or collaborated with a number of organizations statewide, locally and globally that include but is not limited to:

New Jersey was first in the nation to pass this legislation and has served to instruct other states through the process of creating curriculum resources, implementation plans, and training materials in fulfillment of the new statewide mandates for Social Studies.



This state level Commission charged with the surveying, design, promotion and the implementation of public educational awareness programs in New Jersey concerned with the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in our country, and the contributions of African- Americans in building our country; has matured in focus and in the reconstruction of K-12 Social Studies education within our state and across the country in numerous ways:

Web-based Curriculum - National Model for Infused Curriculum Resource Development for Social Studies: -

- In the summer of 2015, the Amistad Commission transferred and debuted the 2014 web-based curriculum resource for New Jersey Educators. The Commission became the first in the nation to undertake the development of a comprehensive historically inclusive web-based curriculum for New Jersey Educators in response to the public's appeal for a model curriculum that fully illuminates the legislated Social Studies course of study.
- The improved Amistad Curriculum website completion allowed for a major design update in addition to a significant amount of new content for English/ Language Arts teachers designed around the Common Core State Standards. New features include the ability for teachers to create student accounts and classes, a text-to-speech capability to assist struggling readers, and content level correlations with both Common Core and N.J. content standards. The activities and resources should be used in all Social Studies classes, as well as interdisciplinary courses, elementary, middle school and high school, which can include American History courses, Language Arts courses, Art courses, Music courses, etc., in all 600 plus NJ school districts. This comprehensive password-protected web resource is available to every teacher in New Jersey, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week free of charge. The updated site will be debuted in June 2014. The address for the Amistad web-based curriculum site is: www.NJAmistadCurriculum.com

Summer Institutes:

- *8th Annual Summer Curriculum Institute for Teachers* at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ on **August 4-6, 2014**; and the
- *Inaugural Summer Curriculum Institute for Teachers* at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ on **August 7-8, 2014**.

As always, different topics are contextualized against a backdrop of the United States history of slavery and the vestiges of slavery in the post slavery eras.

2014 Amistad training theme commemorates the 60th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* (Topeka, KS 1954) by providing teachers with current methodological and pedagogical techniques for studying the history and legacy of school desegregation in New Jersey and across the country, and the use of primary sources and historical fiction aligned to the *New Jersey Common Core State Standards* (NJCCSS).

- *Inaugural Summer Curriculum Institute for Teachers* at Stockton State University in Galloway, NJ on **July 28-30, 2015**.
- *9th Annual Summer Curriculum Institute for Teachers* at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ on **August 3-5, 2015**.



UNESCO Remember Slavery project-events organized to mark the 20th anniversary of the *UNESCO Slave Route Project* centered on developing and sharing techniques to teach unconcerned audience of parents, community and students about slavery. Partnering and collaborating with UNESCO and area colleges. Panels, materials, Q&A

Teaching History through film- collaborations and partnerships with Movie Studios & representatives

Co-sponsorship of free private screenings for teachers with curriculum materials, panel discussion & Q&A

- **12 Years a Slave** - curriculum guide and free movie offer for all New Jersey teachers
- **Belle** - curriculum guide and free movie offer for classroom libraries for all New Jersey teachers
- **Tula, The Revolt** -free screening and panel discussion- Danny Glover
- **Selma** - curriculum guide, free screening in Partnership with the United Nations and Q &A with the film's director Ava DuVernay.

HBCU/Malcolm Bernard Rising Scholars Colege Fair.

Oversee application process for *NJ Rising Scholars* for high achieving minority students and responsibility awards and programming. Collaborators include *The Malcolm Bernard Foundation* and corporate sponsors, *The College of NJ*, and community stakeholders.

AHSA- Coordinating, oversight and evaluation of the *Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA)* Appeals

Community Outreach-serving as participant, resource, and/or co-sponsor for events sponsored by:

- Congressional Black Caucus (CBC)
- NJ BLACK ISSUES CONVENTION (NJBIC)
- NAACP STATE CONFERENCE (NAACP)
- NJSBA Convention (NJSBA)
- NJEA
- Illinois Amistad Commission Meetings; DuSable Museum; and Chicago Board of Education
- State of NJ Museum 2015 exhibit
- Martin Luther King Memorial
- Black History Month

Other ongoing activities:

- Training teachers in the new curriculum platform that rolled out to school districts in August and responding to districts for customized training.
- Negotiating for opening of Amistad Centers at Rowan, Stockton, Drew, and Montclair State Universities to house and train prospective teachers and veteran teachers in the Amistad curriculum



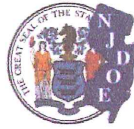
THE AMISTAD COMMISSION

ESSEX COUNTY HALL OF RECORDS
THE SHEILA OLIVER CONFERENCE CENTER
LEROY SMITH BUILDING

Tuesday, December 2, 2014
4:30 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome/Introductions
- III. Commission Update by Stephanie James Wilson, Executive Director
 - A. Summary of Commission activities (see calendar of events)
 - B. Highlights of Summer Institutes (MSU, Rowan U)
 - C. External collaborations
 1. State Museum Exhibit on African Americans in New Jersey scheduled to open May 2015 –the Amistad Commission will provide curriculum guides for New Jersey schools on our website and educational programming for school groups visiting the exhibition in support of the Amistad mandate
 2. *12 Years a Slave* - curriculum guide and free movie offer for all New Jersey teachers
 3. *Belle* – curriculum guide and free movie offer for classroom libraries for all New Jersey teachers
 4. UNESCO Slavery Project Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, UN
 - a. Transatlantic Slavery panel discussion
 - b. Roundtable discussion on the Representation of Slavery in Film, UN
 - c. *Tula, The Revolt* screening and panel discussion- Danny Glover
 5. Illinois Amistad Commission, the Du Sable Museum Presentation and best practice Q & A -for the Amistad Project staff and the administration of Chicago Public schools
 6. Amistad Center pilot creation and actualization of partnerships with New Jersey Colleges and Universities as repositories of materials and resources - initial roll out would include – Montclair State University, Drew University, Rowan University and Stockton University
 - D. Budget FY2015
 1. Curriculum trainings and professional development – including Summer Institute expansions
 2. Amistad centers
 3. Maintenance of Amistad curriculum website
 4. Conference presentations and programming
 - E. Status update of Amistad web-based curriculum
 - F. Additional duties and responsibilities of Commission
 1. CPI Revisions
 2. AHSA
 3. As needed by NJDOE
 - G. Department reorganization (See organization chart)
 1. Kimberly Harrington, Assistant Commissioner (Chief Academic Officer)
 2. Office Staff



IV. Old Business/New Business

V. Adjournment

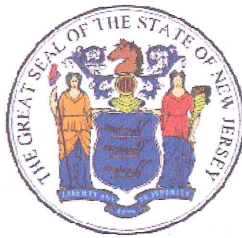
Meeting Highlights

Motions unanimously approved by Commission on December 2, 2014:

1. To request the Commissioner of Education to use his bully pulpit to exhort districts to implement the Amistad curriculum that includes drafting a letter to all districts to explain the importance of compliance with the Amistad Commission mandate expressed in Public Law 2002, Chapter 75. In addition, consider including a timetable for implementation.
2. Appoint, Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks as ex-officio member.
3. Request the Commissioner of Education to add a line item into the FY2016 Budget for the Amistad Commission.
4. The Commission agrees to support the negotiations with universities for the creation of Amistad Centers.
5. The Commission agrees to request that the Commissioner include the approved raises in the budget for the Executive Director to fulfill the Commission's contract agreed to upon her hire that also remedies the inequities that exist between her and other directors of similar background, experience and tenure.

Other Meeting Highlights

- Have the Office of the Amistad Commission maintain ongoing contact with teachers trained in the Summer Institutes.
- Plan a Commission retreat to address and discuss new strategies regarding implementation of Amistad mandates outlined in P.L. 2002, c. 75.
- Consider ways to stay on course with and expanding implementation of Amistad curriculum and to assess the level of implementation in district schools.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEW JERSEY AMISTAD COMMISSION



FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016

10:30 P-12:30P

NJDOE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

GATEWAY 2

283-299 MARKET STREET, 8TH FLOOR

NEWARK, NJ

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DAVE HESPE, NJDOE COMMISSIONER

KIMBERLEY HARRINGTON, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, TEACHING & LEARNING

PATRICIA MORGAN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, LEGAL & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AMISTAD COMMISSIONERS

DR. PATRICIA ANN CRUMLIN-KEMPTON

MAJ. (RET.) JAMES HARRIS

DR. FRANKIE HUTTON

HONORABLE WILLIAM PAYNE

DR. RACHEL PEREIRA, ESQ

AMISTAD COMMISSION STAFF

STEPHANIE JAMES WILSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IMAN AQUDDUS, COORDINATOR

TREVOR MELTON, EDUCATION SPECIALIST & JJC LIAISON

GLENDER TERRELL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

SHARA FLOYD, SUPPORT STAFF

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AGENDA

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016
10:30P-12:30P

Status and Update of Review of 1/29/16 Meeting

- I. Budget FY2017✓
 - II. Budget FY2016
 - A. Executive director salary increase not commensurate with new hires ✓
 - B. Requested to Actual budget
 - 1. Outstanding or unhonored bills
 - 2. Webhosting Cicero Systems
 - C. AKJ summer institute
 - D. Department commitment to Amistad✓
 - III. Status update of Amistad and NJDOE commitment to Amistad implementation ✓
 - A. Commissioner Hespe bully pulpit
 - B. Teacher Certification
 - C. Higher education collaboration
 - IV. Additional duties and responsibilities of Commission
 - A. *Alternate High School Assessment* (PARCC) Appeals
 - B. Community Outreach/Collaborations✓
 - 1. Representation at identified annual convention & others✓
 - a) Congressional Black Caucus (CBC)✓
 - b) NAACP NJ State Convention ✓
 - c) NJ Black Issues Convention (NJBIC) ✓
 - d) NJ Educators Assn (NJEA)✓
 - e) NJ School Boards Assn (NJSBA)✓
 - f) NJ Legislative Black Caucus
 - 2. Establishing pilot Amistad Centers✓
 - a) Colleges & Universities expressing interest in establishing centers or serving as pilots include Stockton, Rowan, Seton Hall, Bloomfield College✓
 - b) Fy17 budget includes allocation to establish 1-3 centers
 - 3. Improving public relations & outreach✓
 - V. Schedule of Events for 2016
 - A. Summer Institutes 2016✓
 - 1. Rowan University (July 25-27)
 - 2. Bloomfield College (August 1-3)
 - B. Historically Black Colleges & Universities college fait & Rising Scholars (HBCU) November✓
 - C. Timbucktoo Project in collaboration with Rutgers University
 - VI. **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**
 - VII. Proposed Quarterly Meeting Dates¹
 - A. **Jan** Feb Mar **Apr** May June **July** Aug Sept Oct Nov **Dec**
 - B. Days: Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri
- ✓DISCUSSED IN MEETING

¹ Suggested meetings should consider the following:

- February (Black History Month)
- July/August (Amistad Summer Institutes)
- September (CBC, NJBIC NAACP)
- November (NJEA, NJSBA HBCU)

Meeting Discussion Highlights

NJDOE Commissioner and Amistad Commission vice-chair Hespe ceded the chair to Stephanie James Harris (Wilson) to preside over the meeting. The discussion did not follow the sequence outlined by the agenda, but once under way, there was a dynamic discussion in which a number of the issues were addressed or minimally touched upon.

- Regarding the Amistad Centers, Assistant Commissioner Harrington suggested that the Commission work with Dr. Joanne Manning of Rowan University to open a multicultural center with Amistad as the focus. However, Executive Director Wilson Harris noted that among other suggested sites, a number of other colleges have approached the Commission with similar offerings that include (alphabetically):
 - Bloomfield College-(Dr. Richard A. Levao, president), which is the identified host of the 2016 Amistad northern regional summer institute, offers its facilities as a possible site;
 - Drew University (Dr. Lillie Edwards);
 - Kean University is looking at the Human Relations Council as a possible location;
 - Montclair State University proposes Dixon Hall as a possible location;
 - Rowan University- discussed above;
 - Seton Hall University is requesting Commissioner James Harris to enter discussions with the Dr. Larry A. Greene Professor of Africana Studies in the College of Arts & Sciences; and
 - Stockton University- Dr. Harvey Kesselman, President and tenured professor of education offers the Carnegie Center to establish an Amistad Center in the library;
- Regarding improving Amistad public relations and outreach beyond the customary broadcast, Asst Commissioner Morgan suggested using Department social media such as FaceBook. In addition, she offered the technical assistance of the Public Information Office (PIO), specifically, Valerie Francois, Diana Pasciulli and David Saenz.

Commissioner Hespe suggested the Commission resort to other digital formats available at colleges, such as webinars and/or video streaming, to improve and increase educator participation using *continuing education units* (ceu) as incentives.

- As it relates to current outreach activities, the Commission suffered a sharp rebuke for failure to have a real presence at NJEA, NJSBA, NAACP and NJBIC as it had in prior years.

To remedy this, within the next few weeks, Asst Comm Harrington offered to get in touch with the head of NJEA Professional Development (PD) workshops, Michael Cohen; Patty Mullet of NJSBA to secure pavilion space, complete with couches and tables, so that superintendents can come at a scheduled time to discuss Amistad implementation and mandates.

Commissioner Hutton suggested that to ensure information about Amistad, especially the Summer Institutes, are getting to educators, staff should send repeated emails—three to four times-- to schools and teachers as reminders.

In addition, Asst Comm Morgan suggests checking to ensure the Charter Schools Association is included in the stream- check with the Director of the Office of Charter Schools, Harry Lee.

Commissioner James Harris offers the offices of the NAACP to assist the Amistad staff whenever needed.

- In terms of FY16 budget review and executive director salary negotiations, the Commission agrees that this is a conversation best done offline.
- Regarding Grant Opportunities, the Commission is advised to look for grants.
- Regarding ensuring that Amistad is being implemented in the schools, NJDOE senior staff participants suggest that Asst Comm Field Services Bob Bumpus should be included in the next Commission meeting to provide technical assistance on the current implementation of QSAC and to discuss the possibility of LRC training for NJOE field staff.

MOTIONS

The Commission requests the passage of the FY17 \$593,985.00²

Moved by James Harris

Approved

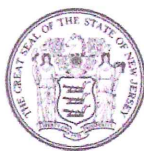
Seconded by Patricia Kempton

Unanimously

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Commissioner Hespe is available Aug. 1 and Aug. 2, 2016. This means that the commission meeting is to be scheduled for Bloomfield College during the summer institute, possibly in the evening at dinner time.

² Note: Approved FY17 Budget includes increased executive director salary
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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Commissioner

February 12, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

FROM: David C. Hespe 
Commissioner

SUBJECT: New Jersey Amistad Legislation
New Jersey Social Studies Standards

As the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, I serve as vice-chair of the New Jersey Amistad Commission (Commission). Assemblyman William Payne, author of the legislation establishing the Commission, all Commissioners, and I want to ensure that children in New Jersey's K-12 classrooms are achieving the important learning goals set forth by the New Jersey Legislature in the "Amistad Bill." (http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2002/Bills/PL02/75_.HTM). We require your support and oversight to ensure that the Amistad curriculum is fully implemented into your district's social studies classes.

Although African-Americans have always been central to the events of American history, too often their contributions have been distorted or omitted. While Black History Month and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday programs, activities and lessons celebrate these seminal calendar events, they clearly do not satisfy the expectation and legal mandate that an inclusive curriculum, infused with the multiple, overlapping and complex national narratives and global history of African-Americans, be taught throughout the academic year.

To fully implement the vision of the law and to encourage and support inclusion of the Amistad curriculum, it has been aligned to New Jersey's Social Studies Standards (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2014/ss>) and PARCC assessments. In addition, the Commission provides classroom teachers and their supervisors easily accessible resources and professional development to ensure effective teaching of New Jersey's inclusive social studies curriculum which infuses the central role of African-Americans into the local, state, national and global narratives of the human story. The Commission hosts a website (<http://www.njamistadcurriculum.net>) that provides all teachers access to inclusive K-12 social studies teaching materials and, throughout the academic year and during the summer, Commission staff offer professional development workshops facilitated by scholars and experienced teachers. Ultimately, we rely upon your administrative expertise and leadership to ensure educational excellence in the implementation of the Amistad curriculum.

Excellence in social studies teaching and learning is especially critical as the 21st century affirms what educators have known for several decades: civic engagement and literacy, as well as global cultural competence equips and empowers our students to engage the world successfully. Our students should have a deep knowledge of the past and present complexities within our national story and how our nation has been and continues to be inextricably connected to the entire world. The Amistad curriculum and the Social Studies Standards require that students learn about the world and about themselves through inclusive course content, for example, the co-existence of slavery and freedom in colonial Jamestown, Plymouth Rock and Princeton. The complexity of these stories deepens the critical thinking that shapes our students' personal identities as local and global citizens and it prepares our students to be intellectually and personally engaged in the world.

Regardless of the diversity within any specific New Jersey school district, a fully inclusive curriculum is necessary to comply with the spirit of the law. This broad, inclusive approach to teaching and learning history and social studies is important for all children, especially because we live in a state that is culturally diverse, where students need to understand the roles all people played in shaping major historical events. Successful implementation of the Amistad curriculum enhances children's self-esteem and, in doing so, fosters their awareness that they too can play an important role in the development of our nation and the world. Furthermore, the infusion of African-Americans into the curriculum is critical if we expect children to become full and active citizens of this country. We will be doing our students, our state and our nation a disservice if we fail to convey to children core knowledge about, an appreciation of, and respect for the richness of the many cultures and people that inhabit our nation and the world.

In order for students to achieve, they must be taught by teachers with deep content knowledge, who have an appreciation for multiple perspectives, and who possess unending enthusiasm for the discipline. Social studies teachers must address the content in a culturally responsive manner, creating a community of learners who respect individual differences. The Amistad Commission, its staff, website, scholars and experienced teachers provide the means to achieve these goals.

New Jersey has set the highest standard in the nation for creating an inclusive K-12 social studies curriculum. Our transformative Amistad goals have caught the attention of other states as the model to be followed. I know that we can count on your continued support as we work together to ensure that we meet our own expectation that all of New Jersey's children master our academic standards in ways that are inclusive of the African-American story. I will continue to address these issues regularly in order to affirm the importance of meeting the highest levels of implementation. The Commission and my office will continue periodic assessment of implementation to determine where professional development is needed and to determine which districts may serve as the models for the rest of the state. We will also be reviewing the guidelines for teacher licensure and Master Teacher qualifications to ensure that new teachers and Master Teachers are prepared to infuse African-Americans into the entire history and social studies curriculum. We will continue to offer professional development workshops for teachers and strongly recommend

that administrators and supervisors attend in order to offer the most effective leadership in infusing the Amistad curriculum into history and social studies classes.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie James Wilson, Executive Director of the Amistad Commission at the New Jersey Department of Education, at 609-984-6428 or at amistad@doe.state.nj.us or stephanie.wilson@doe.state.nj.us.

DCH

c: Members, New Jersey State Board of Education
Members, New Jersey Amistad Commission
Senior Staff
Stephanie James Wilson
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
American Federation of Teachers
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ Council for History Education
NJ Council for Social Studies
NJ LEE Group
NJ NAACP