



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE AMISTAD COMMISSION
FY2015 UPDATE

Below are the recent activities of the Commission. The purpose of the update is to keep the Amistad Commissioners informed and up to date regarding Amistad activities. The information is used inform both the Commissioner of Education and the Governor's office of important deadlines and updates. It will also be used as a tool to keep staff informed about key activities at the department. **Specifically, the information below captures only some of the Amistad Commission activities.** Thank you. Iman AQuddus. amistad@doe.state.nj.us

Division/Office: Division of Teaching & Learning, Kimberly Harrington, Assistant Commissioner
The Amistad Commission/ Stephanie James Harris, Executive Director

Summary of Activities

One of the ongoing expected obligations of the Amistad Commission is to create and/or identify ways to interact with the community and other agencies that and heightens educator and community awareness, enthusiasm and support for Amistad endeavors as envisioned by P.L. 2002, c.75, which establishes the Amistad Commission and supplements chapter 16A of Title 52 of the New Jersey Statutes. In addition to the summer institutes and ongoing training, the staff of the Amistad Commission starts the fall activities with participating in or being a part of activities that include but are not limited to:

September –November

September 2015

- 7th Annual Whitesboro Reunion Festival-Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Inc.**
Whitesboro, New Jersey was established in 1902 as a town exclusively for African Americans. The idea came in response to increasing white resistance to black residents in Cape May County, New Jersey. The African-American Equitable Industrial Association, founded by Reverend J.W. Fishburn and four other members of Cape May City's AME Zion Church, purchased the land in an effort inspired by the self-help philosophy of Booker T. Washington. With help of many investors from the South, most notably the George H. White Land Improvement Company, the Association purchased 2,000 acres of land approximately ten miles north of Cape May City for \$14,000. - See more at: <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/whitesboro-new-jersey-1902#sthash.BTXWmoVN.dpuf> - Source: <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/whitesboro-new-jersey-1902>
Teacher Resource(s) Wendel A. White, Deborah Willis, Stedman Graham and Clement Alexander Price (2003) Small Towns, Black Lives: African American Communities in Southern New Jersey. ISBN 13: 9780972395106 (*Stephanie James Harris, Keynote speaker*).
- Annual Fall Community or Stakeholder interactions**
These interactions require the executive director to provide updates on Amistad Commission ongoing activities, serve as a panelist or resource for the group and to publicize the Amistad curriculum's status as a national model for implementation and the best practices for infusing African American narrative into the greater American story:

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS (CBC)
NAACP STATE CONFERENCE (NAACP)
NJ BLACK ISSUES CONVENTION (NJBIC)

NJSBA CONVENTION (NJSBA)
NEW JERSEY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NJEA)
Stephanie James Harris, primary resource/panelist

- **HBCU/Malcolm Bernard Rising Scholars College Fair**-On the student level, the Commission is part of raising awareness of college opportunities for New Jersey students available in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) through the annual college fair **The Commission** collaborates with HBCU/Malcolm Bernard, New Jersey public and nonpublic high school guidance counselors and community colleges to oversee the application process and selection of high achieving New Jersey high school seniors. Other collaborators and sponsors include the Malcolm Bernard Foundation, the *Omega Psi Phi* fraternity, *Delta Upsilon* chapter and New Jersey corporations

Commemorations and Anniversaries

2012 marked the 10th anniversary of the Amistad law. It was commemorated on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at the Newark Museum where the legislation was signed by then Governor James McGreevey to an audience of historians, legislators, educators and other stakeholders.

In general, each summer institute is organized around a central theme:

2010

2011-

2012- Aligning Amistad curriculum to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and Critical evaluations of primary and secondary sources

History One important strategy involves teaching history through film. We collaborate with movie studios, the United Nations and other organizations to offer free and/or private screenings, a plethora of invaluable training materials bolstered by opportunities to interact with directors, actors and producers who willingly share their own personal insights of an historical event or period. A partial listing of the documentaries and docu-dramas offerings includes:

- ✚ *12 Years a Slave* (Steve McQueen, 2013)
- ✚ *Belle* (Amma Asante, 2013)
- ✚ *Birth of a Nation: Nat Turner Revolt* (Nate Parker, 2016)
- ✚ *The Book of Negroes* (Lawrence Hill, 2007)
- ✚ *A Civil Rights Turning Point: Fannie Lou Hamer in Atlantic City, 1964* by Giles R. Wright and Fannie Lou Hamer (New Jersey Historical Commission, 2005)
- ✚ *More than a Month (Case against Black History Month)* (Shukree Tilghman, 2012)
- ✚ *Freedom Riders* (Stanley Nelson, 2011)
- ✚ *A Place out of Time: The Bordentown [NJ] School: An Educational utopia when discrimination was law and custom* (Dave Davidson 2009)
- ✚ *A Place to Become: Montclair through the Eyes of the Glenridge Avenue YWCA Women (1920-1965)* (The Montclair Historical Society, 2014)
- ✚ *RACE, the Incredible True Story of Gold Medal Champion Jesse Owens* (Stephen Hopkins, 2016)
- ✚ *Selma, One Dream Can Change the World*
- ✚ *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* by Douglas Blackmon (Sam Pollard, 2011)
- ✚ *Tula, The Revolt* (Jeroen Leinders, 2013)
- ✚ *With All Deliberate Speed (Brown v Board of Education)* (Peter Gilbert, 2004)

Textbooks and readings are varied by timeline, region, subject area and appropriateness for the Alma Jean Billingslea-Brown, PhD (1999). *Crossing Borders through Folklore: African American Women's Fiction and Art*. Dr. Billingslea Brown integrated Orange, NJ Public Schools with Richard Alexander, grandson

Wendel A. White, Deborah Willis, Stedman Graham and Clement Alexander Price (2003) *Small Towns, Black Lives: African American Communities in Southern New Jersey*
Stephanie James Wilson served as keynote speaker for two agencies for MLK, Jr. Day:
Tuesday, 13 January 2015- NJ Department of Transportation
Thursday, 15 January 2015- Joint Bases (McGuire and Fort Dix)

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: ***RACE, The Incredible True Story of Gold Medal Champion Jesse Owens*** – in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Education, the New York City Department of Education, The School District of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley School District, the Amistad Commission hosted two free private screening for educators of the Focus Features film, *RACE. The northern region screening was held* Tuesday, February 16th at the AMC 34th Street Theater in New York City. The southern region screening was held Thursday, February 18th at the Ritz 5 Theater in Philadelphia. An educator Q&A followed each of the screenings with screenings, the film's director Stephen Hopkins and the UN director of Outreach joining the Amistad executive director Stephanie James Harris for the northern region Q & A; and Jesse Owens's granddaughter Gina Hemphill-Strachan, Jesse Owens' granddaughter joining Stephanie for the southern region Q & A.

The film chronicles Jesse Owens' four gold-medal performance in front of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany as well as the prejudice he faced in the United States. The audience of primarily educators was nearly 350 for both showings. **Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman** – a member of the Amistad Commission's staff attended the swearing in of the 114th Congress on Tuesday, January 6th that featured the swearing in of the Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman, the first African American Congresswoman from New Jersey. Congresswoman Watson Coleman, a Democrat, was joined by Mia Love, who was also sworn into Congress and became the first African American Congresswoman from Utah, as well as the first African American female Republican in Congress.

• What the Research says about Teacher Prep

As it relates to education, the research is clear and almost axiomatic that the most effective person in students' lives has been and continues to be the classroom teacher.

It is mandatory that all teachers find their most effective way of communicating with developing minds. John Shedd opines, that for history teacher preparation, the good is that secondary education teachers "teach a subject"¹. notes that history teacher preparation can be rather generic and lacking in rigor and in some cases, requiring only 18 college credit hours."

Lee W. Formwalt² (2002) notes in his seven techniques for effective teaching [see Appendix A for a fuller description]:

- ✚ Enthusiasm
- ✚ Relying less on textbooks
- ✚ Using well-written secondary sources

Lauren Westhof of the University of Missouri observed difficulties in the teaching of history in for novice, induction or veteran teachers,³ a situation observed also of teachers who participate in Amistad in-service workshops and curriculum trainings. To obviate some of this as a problem, the Commission the Commission employs a variety of strategies to provide history content and context. Many of our strategies involve collaborating and partnerships with universities, museums, libraries, research centers and other external partners or co-sponsors who make available to our teachers access to primary resources and a variety of curriculum materials in diverse formats.

Upcoming Events

- Update the Amistad Commission website
- Create Planning schedule for 2016
- Timbuktu Special Project

¹ John Shedd, "Why and How Should History Departments Train Secondary Social Studies Teachers." *The History Teacher*, 34, no. 1 (November 2000) Society for History Education: 29–33. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3054372>

² Lee W. Formwalt, "Seven Rules for Effective History Teaching or Bringing Life to the History Class." *OAH Magazine of History*, 17, no. 1, World War I (October 2002). Organization of American Historian (OAH): 65-67. Accessed February 26, 2016, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25163566>.

³ Laura M. Westhoff, "Seeing Through the Eyes of a History Teacher." *The History Teacher*, 45, no. 4 (August 2012): 533-548. Accessed February 25, 2016, <http://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ994105>.

In this essay, the author offers her experiences teaching a methods course at the University of Missouri, St. Louis (UMSL), "U.S. History for the Secondary Classroom" (History 4013), in order to foster discussion of how history educators might find ways to close the gap between history content and pedagogy. The author focuses particularly on the skills of historical synthesis required of high school history teachers, but often overlooked in teacher preparation programs. She also identifies challenges teacher candidates confront in the course as they work to develop epistemic and pedagogical foundations for the content choices they will make as history teachers. In making the case for methods courses in which students have opportunities to practice the skills of synthesis, she argues for the vital role of history educators in helping aspiring teachers, administrators, and the broader public better understand the intellectual richness and civic significance of history education. At least one of the obstacles [a teacher] encounters is the continued segregation of teacher education and content coursework. Despite evidence that neither history nor pedagogy courses alone necessarily help preservice teachers develop pedagogical content knowledge, teacher education programs still struggle to find ways to bring them together."



THE AMISTAD COMMISSION

Highlights of activities in past six months

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.

This year's 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).

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

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

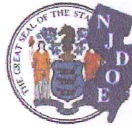
II. Welcome/Introductions

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



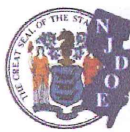
Meeting Highlights

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

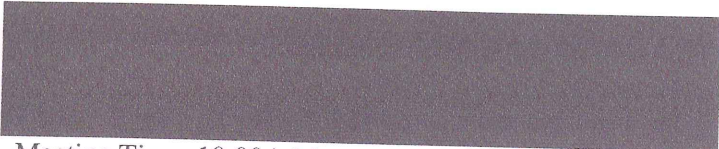
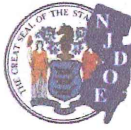
- Have the Office of the Amistad Commission maintain ongoing contact with teachers trained in the Summer Institutes.
- Plan a Commission retreat to address and discuss new strategies regarding implementation of Amistad mandates outlined in P.L. 2002, c. 75.
- Consider ways to stay on course with and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



THE AMISTAD COMMISSION RETREAT

MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2015



Commission Retreat

June 6, 2015

Essex County College • University Ave • Siegler Hall • Newark, NJ

Facilitator: Stephanie James Wilson, Executive Director

Notetaker: Shara Floyd

Meeting Time: 10:00A.M.

Roll Call:

Stephanie James Wilson-Executive Director

Iman AQuddus-Ed Specialist

Rachel Pereira-Commissioner

James Harris-Commissioner

Shara Floyd-Support staff

Trevor Melton-Ed Specialist

Maryam Abd Al-Quddus-Student Intern

Documents: Agenda, Bylaws

MEETING AGENDA

Called to order at 10:08am by Stephanie James Wilson

Stephanie:

We don't need a quorum, one request we had was to organize a retreat to revisit, organization and structure, how we would operate and to come up with a game plan. For the purposes of that we will have a retreat and a public meeting. Agenda for retreat is dealing specifically with logistics of the commission. The agenda for this afternoon will be about planning, implementation, strategies, Summer Institute. Don't mind mixing the two, just want everyone to realize we won't be talking about Summer Institute unless we're talking about the organization of it.

Invitees were the Commissioners and Staff

DISCUSSION AND CONCERNS

I. Bylaws

Stephanie James Wilson

For the purposes of this meeting would like us to be very candid about strengths and weaknesses, where we can move forward what could help us move this and realities of where we are. Including staff on purpose since they're a part of this organization and on a daily basis under gurgling the mission of this commission.

One of the first orders of business is chairmanship. I gave everyone the bylaws. These were the original bylaws done when we were with the Department of State. Don't think they've been looked at since Lisa Ruck was DAG under Secty of state Wells around 2006 or 2007. Lost our DAG who went on maternity leave and we haven't done anything since. Bylaws were lifted from the law. Bylaws looking at the governance in regards of and



commissioner's responsibility of the commissioners. If we were to do a literal interpretation of this it would be a much different commission. The duties in regards to providing information and servicing, being a liason. Didn't do much with textbook companies, the school systems, volunteers, professional consultants, as a repository for the coordination of events seeking volunteers, memorialize different historical events throughout the year. Talking specifically about A Am History. The annual report. Curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subject and this is the interesting one. Every board of Education shall incorporate the information in the appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary and secondary school students we have never evoked that.

The rest of the retreat centered on this subject which is item G 1:1 of the bylaw. The discussion about this bylaw prompted the idea that this may be something that needs to be taken to the commissioner or the Board of Education.

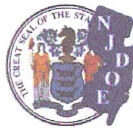
There was a question as to whether this was part of the law and the conclusion is that the bylaw is part of the law as well.

Comm.
Payne

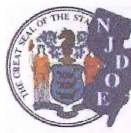
Comm
Harris

Comm
Pereira

Commission Actions



2015 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Division/Office: Academics-CAO/AssistComm, Kimberly Harrington/Amistad Commission (Stephanie James Wilson)

Highlights Amistad Commission (Wilson): 2/18/2015

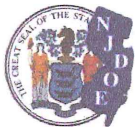
The executive director and/or staff made presentations, participated in and/or attended the following events:

- Tuesday, 17 February 2015-Stockton University- curriculum program review to increase Social Studies/African Studies majors and/or concentration;
- Wednesday, 18 February 2015-Department of Labor Black History Month program: *A Century of Black Life, History and Culture* (Wilson-Guest speaker);
- Thursday, 19 February 2015-*Selma, One Dream Can Change the World* showing hosted by Secretary of State/Lt.Gov. Kim Guadagno for 60 New Brunswick HS students 11:00 A.M. at AMC Loews New Brunswick 18, 17 U.S. 1;
- Friday, 20 February 2015-Glassboro HS Black History Month program (Wilson-keynote);
- Friday, 20 February 2015-Policy & Planning Board Meeting-Office of the Attorney General, Cumberland County College regarding at risk juvenile (Trevor Melton)
- Saturday, 22 February 2015-The Fifth Annual Black History Celebration *Standing on the Shoulders of Giants*, sponsored by Mount Olive Baptist Church, Hackensack, featuring Wade Henderson, President of the *Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights* and the Leadership Conference Education Fund; and U.S. Senator Bob Menendez; and

Saturday, 28 February 2015 *Association for the Study of African American Life History* (ASAALH) The Annual Black History Luncheon

On the Horizon

- Wednesday-Friday, 25-27, February 2015 Biloxi, MS, *39th Juvenile Justice Symposium: Justice for All Youth: Working Together to Empower Youth, Families and the Community* (Trevor Melton); and
- Saturday, 28 February 2015-Lawnside School District *Teacher of the Year* award



Division/Office: Academics-CAO/AssistComm, Kimberly Harrington/Amistad Commission (Stephanie James Wilson)

Highlights Amistad Commission (Wilson): 02/11/2015

- Saturday, 7 February 2015- *Timbuktu Slave Project* planning group of international scholars Schomburg Center, NYC.
- Monday, 9 February 2015- Lunch & Learn presentation to NJDOE
- Tuesday, 10 February 2015 -Villanova University Black History program: Philadelphia's First School of Civil Rights in the Civil War Era *Institute for Colored Youth: "A Great Thing for Our People"*.
- Wednesday, 11 February 2015- Pre-screening of *The Book of Negroes* followed by a discussion with Leading Actress Aunjanue Ellis, Oscar and Emmy Winner Louis Gossett, Jr. in the Economic and Social Council Chamber of the UN Headquarters

The Book of Negroes, a six-part mini-series directed by Jamaican Clement Virgo, airs on BET February 16 as part of the cable channel's *Black History Month* schedule.

The series is based on Canadian author Lawrence Hill's award-winning novel of the same name. It stars Aunjanue Ellis as Aminata Diallo, an African woman sold into slavery in colonial America, before making her way to Canada, Sierra Leone and England where she gained her freedom by registering her name in the historic *Book of Negroes*, which recorded the name and description of 3000 African American slaves who had to work for the British army during the American Revolution before being evacuated to Nova Scotia, Canada

The miniseries: <http://www.bet.com/shows/the-book-of-negroes.html>

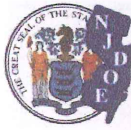
The book: <http://lawrencehill.com/the-book-of-negroes/>

- Thursday, 12 February-Montclair Historical Society Museum lesson plans review
- Friday, 13 February 2015- *African American Career Day*, Glendale MS, Montclair

Tuesday, 17 February 2015-Stockton University- curriculum program review to increase attraction to majors and/or concentration of Social Studies/African Studies

On the Horizon

18 February 2015- NJDOT Black History presentation



Division/Office:Academics-CAO/AssistComm, Kimberly Harrington/Amistad Commission (Stephanie James Wilson)

Highlights Amistad Commission (Wilson): 02/04/'2015

- Saturday, 7 February 2015- *Timbuktu Slave Project* planning group scheduled for will include scholars from around the United States and Canada- Schomburg Center, NYC.
- Tuesday, 10 February 2015 Villanova University Black History program, celebrates Philadelphia's (First) School of Civil Rights in the Civil War Era *Institute for Colored Youth: "A Great Thing for Our People"*.
This event celebrates the launch of a new website telling the surprising story of a school in Philadelphia that trained young African Americans to teach the freedmen, to lobby for civil rights, and to train the next generation of activists.
- Thursday, 12 February- Montclair Historical Society Museum to review proposed lesson plans for museum project
- Friday, 13 February 2015- *African American Career Day*, Glendale MS, Montclair, NJ
Tuesday, 17 February 2015-Stockton University- curriculum program review to increase Social Studies/African Studies majors and/or concentration

On the Horizon

Planning for Amistad Commission retreat with NJDOE senior staff targeted for March 2015

Division/Office:Academics-CAO/AssistComm, Kimberly Harrington/Amistad Commission (Stephanie James Wilson)

Highlights Amistad Commission (Wilson): 01/21/'2015

- One of the ongoing expected obligations of the Amistad Commission is to assist the community and other agencies with programming and technical assistance for Black History programs or Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day commemorations. As such, Stephanie James Wilson served as keynote speaker for two agencies for MLK, Jr. Day:
 - Tuesday, 13 January 2015- NJ Department of Transportation
 - Thursday, 15 January 2015- Joint Bases (McGuire and Fort Dix)
- Tuesday, 20 January 2015 Stephanie participated in reading programs in Bayonne

On the Horizon

- Next month, Stephanie James Wilson is scheduled to speak again at the *Department of Transportation* as part of their Black History Program on a date in February not yet determined.
The expected Spring exhibition of Slavery in New Jersey, a joint project of the State Museum and the Amistad Commission, has been pushed up to late summer



Division/Office: Academics-CAO/AssistComm, Kimberly Harrington/Amistad Commission (Stephanie James Wilson)

Highlights Amistad Commission (Wilson): 01/15/'2015

- **Selma, One Dream Can Change the World** – In collaboration with Paramount Studios and the United Nations, the Amistad Commission is hosting a private screening of the critically acclaimed film *Selma, One Dream Can Change the World*, Wednesday, January 7th at the AMC 34th Street theater in New York City. An educator Q&A with the director, Ava du Vernay, will follow the screening. Thus far, the expected audience of primarily educators, although opened to all members of the public, registered to attend has reached a high of over 705. The response required the studio to request a 2nd theater to accommodate the interested. *Selma* is a dramatic film depicting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic struggle to secure voting rights for all people – a dangerous and terrifying campaign that culminated with the epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, and led to President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We were fortunate to have, as part of the viewing audience United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, several members of the Secretariat and representatives from the Permanent Missions of Tanzania, Kenya and Jamaica. In addition, we were fortunate to have Commissioner William Payne was there to field questions from the UN press and to share his anecdotes about his personal experiences with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr; as well as Commissioner James Harris.

Here are links to the stories published by the UN News Center, UN radio and UN FaceBook following the screening of Selma

UN NEWS Center

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49753#.VLBI1CvF9vA>

UN radio

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2015/01/selma-brings-the-human-spirit-to-the-big-screen/>

Facebook - story and pics

<https://www.facebook.com/rememberslavery>

- **Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman** – a member of the Amistad Commission's staff attended the swearing in of the 114th Congress on Tuesday, January 6th that featured the swearing in of the Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman, the first African American Congresswoman from New Jersey. Congresswoman Watson Coleman, a Democrat, was joined by Mia Love, who was also sworn into Congress and became the first African American Congresswoman from Utah, as well as the first African American female Republican in Congress.

On January 13, 2015, at the invitation of the State Department of Transportation, Executive Director Stephanie James Wilson spoke at their event to celebrate MLK, Jr Day . In

Upcoming Events

- Update the Amistad Commission website
- Create Planning schedule for 2015
- Timbuktu Planning meeting-February 7, 2015, NYC