



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

August 22, 2011

**Time Sensitive:
Applications Due
Friday October 7, 2011**

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

FROM: Marie Barry, Director
Office of Career and Technical Education

SUBJECT: 2011 New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program and HBCU Rising Scholar Fund Scholarship

As you begin the 2011-2012 school year, I would like to remind you to encourage your high school seniors to consider applying for the **2011 New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program and the 2011 HBCU Rising Scholar Fund Scholarship.**

This recognition program honors the academic excellence and community service achieved by public and non-public high school seniors throughout the state who are interested in attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). The program acknowledges students from diverse backgrounds who are leaders in their school and community, and have defined career and educational goals. The New Jersey Department of Education (DOE), in collaboration with the Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair of New Jersey, will recognize **up to 75 students as 2011 NJ Rising Scholars.**

The 2011 New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program Guidelines and Application packet are attached and also available on the department's website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/equity/rs/>. Please carefully review the application packet. To ensure full consideration, students must adhere to all program criteria. **All applications must be complete and received by the DOE Office of Career and Technical Education no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, October 7, 2011.** Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Awardees and their high school administrators/counselors will be notified beginning October 23, 2011.

The selected Rising Scholars and a guest will be invited to attend an awards ceremony on Sunday, November 13, 2011. Each Rising Scholar will receive an award certificate, a comprehensive guide of scholarships which they are eligible to receive from a HBCU, and the opportunity to meet recruiters from colleges and universities participating in the college fair. In addition, the scholar may be eligible to have application fees waived and may receive on-site admission to selected institutions. It is anticipated that representatives from over 40 HBCUs will participate in the 2011 college fair.

In addition, the 2011 NJ Rising Scholars may also be eligible to receive the **HBCU Rising Scholars Fund Scholarship**. Contingent upon the availability of funds, this scholarship award may be made available in the 2011 – 2012 school year by the Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair of New Jersey, Inc. The scholarship will only be available to a select number of 2011 New Jersey Rising Scholars who enroll in an Historically Black College or University in the fall of 2012 and need financial assistance. To be eligible for consideration for this scholarship award, students must submit a completed application for the NJ Rising Scholars Recognition Program as required in the program guidelines. Recipients of HBCU Rising Scholars Fund Scholarship award will be notified in spring 2012. In prior years, the Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair of New Jersey awarded scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.

For more information about the 2011 NJ Rising Scholars Recognition Program, please contact Ms. Diane Schonyers, DOE Office of Career and Technical Education, at (609) 984-6409 or at hbcu@doe.state.nj.us.

For additional information about the HBCU Rising Scholars Fund Scholarship, please contact Mrs. Barbara Bernard, Executive Director of the Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair of New Jersey, at (732) 305-7003 and at info@hbcu-cfnj.com or visit the website at www.HBCU-CFNJ.com.

MB/DS/s:\diane schonyers\njrs\2011\2011njrsannouncement letter - fall.docx

Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education
Christopher Cerf, Acting Commissioner
Senior Staff
James McBee
Diane Schonyers
Executive County Superintendents
Barbara Bernard