



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Acting Commissioner

May 31, 2011

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

FROM: Rochelle Hendricks
Acting Deputy Commissioner

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

It is my pleasure to again announce the **2011 New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program and the 2011 HBCU Rising Scholar Fund Scholarship**, an exciting opportunity for New Jersey high school seniors graduating in school year 2011 – 2012.

The 2011 New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program 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 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 and encourage your upcoming high school seniors to take the SAT or ACT in the summer. 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 12, 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.

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Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education
Christopher Cerf
Senior Staff
Marie Barry
Diane Schonyers
Diane Shoener
Executive County Superintendents
Barbara Bernard