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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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June 17, 2011

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Principals
Supervisors

FROM: Andrew Smarick
Special Assistant to the Commissioner

SUBJECT: Connecting to the Common Core Institute

The New Jersey Department of Education, with support of the Longview Foundation, is offering a free multi-day institute *Connecting to the Common Core* for K-12 educators. The institute will facilitate the development of **interdisciplinary** curricular materials and effective instructional practices that address the expectations of the new Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.

Participants in the *Connecting to the Common Core* institute will have the opportunity to hear from national experts, such as Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Mari Pearlman, and Carol Ann Tomlinson, as well as collaborate with educators from other states. A focus of the institute will be on the role that global perspectives, differentiated instruction, and performance-based assessment play in preparing New Jersey students to be college and career ready.

We are looking for teams of teachers who are passionate about engaging students in relevant and meaningful learning experiences based on the new Common Core State Standards and the 2009 New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. The **interdisciplinary** teams should be comprised of two to five educators from English Language Arts and other content areas as well as teachers of special education and ESL. It is expected that the team will have expertise in 21st century skills and technology integration.

The *Connecting to the Common Core* institute seeks to engage teacher leaders to:

- Work in collaborative teams to develop effective teaching and learning strategies;
- Engage in professional conversations regarding student work and improving instructional practice; and
- Share their knowledge from this experience via webinars.

The *Connecting to the Core* institute will be held at Middlesex County College on July 6, 13, and 28 from 8:45 AM-3:00 PM. It is expected that participants will attend all three summer

sessions and at least one session during the 2011-2012 school year. The work products that result from this institute will be available to all New Jersey educators.

Please forward this information to content area supervisors, curriculum coordinators and classroom educators. As there will be limited space available for this series, each member of the team should register early at <http://education.state.nj.us/events/?month=07&year=2011&day=6>.

Should you have questions about this event, please contact Cheri Quinlan at cheri.quinlan@doe.state.nj.us or Beverly Plein at beverly.plein@doe.state.nj.us.

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