



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

March 7, 2011

TO: Chief School Administrators
Principals
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Rochelle Hendricks
Acting Deputy Commissioner

SUBJECT: 2011-12 Exemplary Secondary Educator Recognition Program

The New Jersey Department of Education invites public school districts and charter schools to participate in the 2011-12 Exemplary Secondary Educator Recognition Program. The goal of this program is to identify exemplary educators for special recognition programs. Your recommendations will identify educators who are valued by their school and community and who may ultimately receive prestigious national recognition.

New Jersey is very fortunate to have an accomplished group of educators in its current workforce. For this program, the department requests administrators identify **exemplary secondary (grades 6-12) teachers, specialists, and principals** who are relatively new to the profession and who demonstrate exceptional teaching and leadership abilities. Exemplary educators should exhibit strong knowledge and skills, an inspiring presence, and a clear vision for quality teaching and learning that has a positive impact on students, colleagues, and the school community. Note that candidates should have a minimum of five years experience in education.

Each district may recommend up to three educators by completing a 2011-12 Exemplary Secondary Educator Recommendation Packet for each candidate. A completed packet includes the attached 2011-12 Exemplary Secondary Educator Recommendation Form, a one-page recommendation letter, and the candidate's resume. Please refer to Information Sheet for more detailed information.

Your recommendation is confidential and should not be shared with the individual being recommended. Should you have any questions, please contact Nancy Besant, program coordinator, at nancy.besant@doe.state.nj.us. Completed forms, resumes, and recommendation letters **must be received by Friday, April 8, 2011**. They should be mailed to:

**New Jersey Department of Education
100 Riverview Plaza
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500
Attn : Nancy Besant**

I encourage you to recommend candidates for the 2011-12 Exemplary Secondary Educator Recognition Program. **A certificate of recognition will be sent to you during the 2011-12 school year to present to each candidate that is selected.** As always, your cooperation and assistance are greatly appreciated.

RH/MJK/NB/S:\MILKEN AWARDS\MILKEN 2011\EXEMPLARY EDUCATOR MEMO.DOC

Attachment

c: State Board Members
Senior Staff
Diane Shoener
Pam Castellanos
Mary Jane Kurabinski
Ken Figgs
Nancy Besant
NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools
Executive County Superintendents