



## NJDOE News

Contact: Richard Vespucci  
For Release: March 19, 2001

---

### State Department of Education Sponsoring Conferences to Assist Young Adults with Disabilities

The New Jersey Department of Education is leading a statewide initiative to assist young adults with disabilities in achieving their career potential and independence as members of their communities. The conferences, entitled *Reach Out, Speak Out: Achieving Empowerment*, will provide students and their parents with up-to-date information and strategies related to student empowerment, self-advocacy and transition.

Upcoming regional conferences will be held on March 20 at New Jersey City University, Jersey City, on March 21 at Middlesex County College, Edison and on March 23 at Centenary College in Hackettstown. Conferences were already held on March 13 at Burlington County College and on March 16 at Atlantic Cape Community College in Mays Landing. Registration and breakfast for each conference is from 8:30 to 9 a.m.; each program runs from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The department's Office of Special Education Programs has been joined this year with college co-sponsors from Atlantic, Burlington, Hudson, Middlesex and Warren counties. Presenters will be students from local school districts.

The conference sessions include the following topics:

- *Charting Your Destiny in High School*: an interactive play that uses a "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" format to discuss issues related to individualized education plans (IEPs).
- *To Boldly Go...Odyssey to the Future*: Students on a panel discuss personal decision making.
- *I Think That's What I Thought I Heard You Say*: Short games on effective communication.
- *For Sale...One Terrific Person*: Begins with a game describing personality traits and ends with students creating "wanted" posters of themselves describing their best traits.
- *The Interview*: Reviews resumes followed by role-play college or employment interviews. The session includes audience participation and voting candidates on or off interviews in a "Survivor" format.

For more information, contact the Office of Special Education Programs, 609-633-6833.