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### **Katzenbach School for the Deaf Ready to Launch Initiative To Strengthen Technology Use By Students and Staff**

New Jersey's Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf is about to launch an initiative designed to dramatically enhance information technology capability for students and staff. School staff will learn about the initiative at a special in-service session and ceremony scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday, June 25, 2001, at the Katzenbach School, located in West Trenton (Ewing).

"Through this initiative, the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf is making a commitment to fulfill a five-year plan of excellence," said Commissioner of Education Vito A. Gagliardi, Sr. "I salute School Superintendent Ronald C. Goodwin and his staff for embarking on a mission to make Katzenbach the undisputed premier school for the deaf in New Jersey."

Dr. Thomas Henry, director of the Department of Education's Office of

School-to-Career and College Initiatives, and representatives from Apple Computer will address teachers and staff in Monday's ceremony. (*News media are invited and encouraged to attend*). This summer, all teaching, guidance and administrative staff will receive Apple computers and training. In addition, all incoming ninth-grade students will receive laptop computers. The computers make use of the most advanced technology to further students' academic and vocational needs.

Dr. Henry said that for students to succeed when they leave high school, they must have the ability to find and use data to make decisions, work in teams and handle change. He noted that the partnership between the Katzenbach School and Apple Computer will be ongoing and will include opportunities for interactive, internet based professional development training for students and staff.

"This partnership will lay the groundwork for a comprehensive five-year plan of improvement," said Goodwin. "With a long history of positive accomplishments in teaching and inspiring a strong interest in learning, Katzenbach continues to move forward in giving students more career and postsecondary options upon graduation by developing new approaches to meeting their academic and occupational training needs."

Goodwin noted several additional enhancements to Katzenbach School:

- A \$450,000 National Science Foundation grant to increase science awareness for deaf children in grades K-12 over the next three years.
- Installation of state-of-the-art equipment in vocational and technical education programs through a joint venture with the Department of Education's Office of School-to-Career and College Initiatives.
- A partnership with the Ford Motor Company to initiate light maintenance technician training.

For more information about the Katzenbach School, call 609-530-3156 or visit the school's website at:

[www.mkzd.state.nj.us](http://www.mkzd.state.nj.us)

The Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf was established by state law to serve as an institution to serve the needs of New Jersey's deaf students. Since its inception in 1883, the school's mission has broadened to include providing services to deaf and hard of hearing persons of all ages in order to enhance the quality of life and to assist them in maximizing their potential.

The Katzenbach School is the only statewide residential school for the deaf in New Jersey. It operates an early intervention program for children under age three and their parents; a nursery school, a lower school, a middle school, a high school, a program for multiply handicapped and deaf-blind students, and a program for deaf students who are seriously emotionally disturbed. Students who attend Katzenbach either commute daily or remain on campus from Monday through Friday.