

*AMISTAD
COMMISSION*

Summer Institute 2025

August 4-7, 2025 | Stockton University
Ocean Campus, Atlantic City, NJ

*Moving Forward/
Preserving our Past:
Revolution, Reaction
and Reform*



Summer Institute 2025

Guided by the annual theme for National History Day, which focuses on revolution, reaction, and reform in history, the 2025 Summer Institute has embraced the theme “Moving Forward/Preserving our Past: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform.” Our sessions and workshops will reflect this theme, offering a rich and engaging experience for all participants.

About National History Day® (NHD)

National History Day® (NHD) is a non-profit education organization based in College Park, Maryland. NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million middle- and high-school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Since 1974, NHD has continuously improved history education by providing professional development opportunities and curriculum materials for educators. The largest NHD program is the National History Day Contest, which encourages more than half a million students worldwide to conduct historical research on a topic of their choice. Students enter these projects at the local and affiliate levels, with top students advancing to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Goals of the 2025 Institute

1. To provide tools, resources, and training for educators to reimagine their purpose and commitment to educating the children of New Jersey.
2. To assist teachers in changing the narrative in social studies/history and other subject areas in classrooms in NJ.
3. To improve NJ teachers’ awareness of the Amistad legislation.
4. To help teachers and district leaders create lesson plans and policies that reflect the mandate of the Amistad Legislation.

We are excited to have you join us for this transformative experience. Together, we will explore the past, understand its impact on the present, and inspire future generations.

K-5 Toolkit and Resources TRACK 1	6-8 Toolkit and Resources TRACK 2	9-12 Toolkit and Resources TRACK 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggested Books and Resources• Sample Lesson Plans for K-5• Activities for K-5 Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggested Books on African American History and other subject areas• Periods in African American History• Sample Lesson Plans• Activities for Grades 6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggested Books on African American History and other subject areas• Periods in African American History• Sample Lesson Plans• Activities for Grades 9-12



Summer Institute Etiquette

1. Turn off or put cell phones in silent mode.
2. No social media during sessions.
3. Use laptop or other device to only take notes. Stay off your email.
4. Value our time together.
5. Be open to diverse perspectives and ideas.
6. Be an exceptional New Jersey educator.

Agenda

Day 1 Monday, August 4

Time	Topic	Facilitator	Room
7:00PM-8:00PM	Check-In and Welcome to Teachers Staying in Residence	McKenzie Suber-Robinson and Dr. Patrick J. Lamy, Residence Hall Staff	Kesselman Hall
8:00PM-9:00PM	Getting to Know You Activity and Dinner	McKenzie Suber-Robinson and Dr. Patrick J. Lamy	Kesselman Hall Room 119

Day 2 Tuesday, August 5

Time	Topic	Facilitator	Room
7:30AM-8:45AM	Check-In/Registration		Scarpa Academic Center
7:45AM-8:45AM	Breakfast and Morning Conversations		Fannie Lou Hamer
9:00AM- 9:05AM	Greetings from the Representatives of Stockton University	Dr. Joe Bertolino	Fannie Lou Hamer
9:05AM-9:10AM	Housekeeping Items	Trevor K. Melton	
9:10AM-9:20AM	Overview: What is the Amistad Commission	Dr. John T. Mills	
9:20AM-9:30AM	Opening Remarks from The Amistad Commission's Executive Director and Board Chair	Dr. Patrick J. Lamy and Dr. Lillie Edwards, Chair	
9:30AM-9:35AM	State Board of Education remarks	Dr. Nedd Johnson, Vice President	
9:40AM- 10:40AM	Keynote Remarks	Tim Wise	Fannie Lou Hamer
10:45AM -11:45AM	Plenary Session: Preserving Strategies to Teach from the Lens of Diversity in a new era of change	Dr. Amber Smith	Fannie Lou Hamer

Time	Topic	Facilitator	Room
11:50AM -12:50PM	TRACK 1: Teaching K-5 Students from the Lens of Diversity in an Era of Change	Syreeta Primas	210
	TRACK 2: Teaching Middle School Students from the Lens of Diversity in an Era of Change	Dr. Donnetrice Allision	211
	TRACK 3: Teaching High School Students from the Lens of Diversity in an Era of Change	Kory Loyola	212
12:55PM-1:45PM	Lunch		Fannie Lou Hamer
1:55PM-2:55PM	Plenary Session: Revolution and Resistance – Catalyst for Change	Dr. John Johnson	Fannie Lou Hamer
3:00PM-4:00PM	TRACK 1: Discussing Revolution and Resistance as a Topic in the K-5 Classroom	Syreeta Primas	210
	TRACK 2: Discussing Revolution and Resistance as a Topic in Middle Schools	Stephane Manuel	211
	TRACK 3: Discussing Revolution and Resistance as a Topic in High Schools	Abigail Henry	212
4:05PM-4:15PM	Break: Coffee and Refreshments		
4:20PM-5:20PM	Plenary Session: History of Social, Economic, and Political Reform in the United States	Dr. Leslie Wilson	Fannie Lou Hamer
5:25PM-6:25PM	TRACK 1: Teaching About Reform as a Topic in the K-5 Classroom	Stephen Dickerson	210
	TRACK 2: Teaching About Reform as a Topic in Middle Schools	Abigail Henry	211
	TRACK 3: Teaching About Reform as a Topic in High Schools	Stephane Manuel	212
6:30PM-8:00PM	Dinner and Entertainment	Keith Marks Music	

Day 3 Wednesday, August 6

Time	Topic	Facilitator	Room
8:00AM-9:00AM	Breakfast and Morning Conversations		Fannie Lou Hamer
9:00AM-10:00AM	Plenary Session: A Global History of Resistance and Oppression	Dr. Linda Epps	Fannie Lou Hamer
10:10 AM-11:10AM	TRACK 1: Teaching About Oppression and Resistance in the K-5 Classroom	Tamar LaSure Owens	210
	TRACK 2: Teaching About Oppression and Resistance in Middle Schools	Dr. Dan Tulino	211
	TRACK 3: Teaching About Oppression and Resistance in High Schools	Dr. Robyn Clarke	212
11:15AM-11:25AM	Break: Coffee and Refreshments		
11:30AM-12:35PM	Vendor Session	Diversity Schoolhouse, PBS, Valerie Still, Kim and Donald Byrd, True Fiktion, and Key Arts Productions	Fannie Lou Hamer
12:35PM-1:00PM	Empowering Educators Rowan University	Dr. Chanelle Rose and Dr. Valerie Lee	Fannie Lou Hamer
1:05PM-1:55PM	Lunch	Dad in Chad	
2:00PM-3:00PM	Plenary Session: History of Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in New Jersey	Ms. Noelle Lorraine Williams	Fannie Lou Hamer
3:05PM-4:05PM	TRACK 1: Teaching About NJ African American History in the K-5 Classroom	Tamar LaSure Owens and Neysha Parker	210
	TRACK 2: Teaching About NJ African American History in Middle Schools	Valerie Still	211
	TRACK 3: Teaching About NJ African American History in High Schools	Theresa Maughan	212
4:05PM-4:15PM	Break: Coffee and Refreshments		

Time	Topic	Facilitator	Room
4:10PM-5:50PM	*Administrators & School Board Members* District Leaders Roundtable: Infusing the Amistad Curriculum District Wide	Dr. Christine Johnson, Superintendent of Hoboken Schools	212
4:15PM-5:30PM	Ghana Virtual Tour	Eric Jones	Fannie Lou Hamer
5:35PM-6:00PM	Amistad Curriculum Website-Lesson Plans	A'ndrea Bair and Britt Jordan	Fannie Lou Hamer
6:00PM-6:15PM	Amistad Commission Teacher Leadership Committee	Amistad Teacher Leadership Committee	Fannie Lou Hamer
6:15PM-7:45PM	Dinner and Entertainment	Key Arts Productions	

Day 4 Thursday, August 7

Time	Topic	Facilitator	Room
8:00AM-8:50AM	Breakfast and Morning Conversations		
8:55AM-10:00AM	Generative AI to Support Lesson Planning	Arielle Davis-Featherstone	Fannie Lou Hamer
	Elementary	Middle	High
10:05AM-10:35AM	Peter Mott House 212	Atlantic County Historical Society 210	Underground Railroad Museum 211
10:40AM-11:10AM	Underground Railroad Museum 211	Peter Mott House 212	Atlantic County Historical Society 210
11:15AM-11:45AM	Atlantic County Historical Society 210	Buffalo Soldiers Fannie Lou Hamer	Buffalo Soldiers Fannie Lou Hamer
11:45AM-11:55AM	Break: Coffee and Refreshments		
12:00PM -12:30PM	National History Day Contest: Overview	Michelle Moon	Fannie Lou Hamer

Time	Topic	Facilitator	Room
12:30PM-1:00PM	Track 1: Start Your NJ African American History Day	Neysa Parker	210
	Track 2 & 3: Start Your NJ National History Day 6-12	Theresa Maughan	Fannie Lou Hamer
1:00PM-1:55PM	Lunch		
2:00PM-2:45PM	Panel: NJ Commissions	Department of Education Commissions: Amistad, Holocaust Education, Italian Heritage, LGBTQIA+	Fannie Lou Hamer
2:50PM-3:50PM	Panel: Student Stories of Engagement	NAACP-Atlantic City Youth Council	Fannie Lou Hamer
3:55PM-4:15PM	NJEA	Dr. Kim Pinckney	Fannie Lou Hamer
4:15PM-4:25PM	Break: Coffee and Refreshments		
4:30PM-5:30PM	Elementary NJ Cultural Commissions in Elementary Curriculum	Tamar LaSure-Owens	210
	Middle School Ruby Bridges Resistance Narratives	Dr. Meg White	211
	High School African American Political Struggles Reconstruction to Today	Dr. John T. Mills	212
6:00PM-8:00PM	Closing Awards Ceremony Dinner Amistad Commission Award Ceremony	Assemblyman Antwan McClellan Executive Director Dr. Patrick Lamy	Fannie Lou Hamer

Our Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission Statement

The mission of the Amistad Commission is to provide New Jersey's K-12 educators with professional training and resources to accurately teach content that is inclusive of the contributions of Africans, African Americans, and the African diaspora in all subject areas.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to position New Jersey as the national leader in developing and implementing K-12 curriculum that reflects the diversity of our nation.

Core Values Statement

Established by legislation passed unanimously by the New Jersey Senate and Assembly in 2002 and revised in 2022, the Amistad Commission is the first commission in the nation established for the purpose of assuring that the American story includes the contributions of Africans, African Americans, and the African diaspora in building and defining our country. The Commission prepares New Jersey's teachers, district leaders, and students with high level, customized educational opportunities, and an innovative array of support services to meet the mandate of the Amistad legislation.

The Commission's core values affirm: a) A commitment to excellence in teaching and student learning; b) The diversity embedded in the nation's history, culture, and institutions; c) The connections between U.S. history and global history; d) A commitment to engage community stakeholders in our work.

These statements have redefined the purpose of the Commission and established new pathways to move the work of the Commission forward over the next five years. Our Mission and Vision are bold, purposeful and intentional. Our core values truly represent our genuine intention in our approach to best serve our students and educators in New Jersey.

The Amistad Commission logo is a red square with the words "AMISTAD" and "COMMISSION" in white, serif, all-caps font. "AMISTAD" is positioned above "COMMISSION".

AMISTAD
COMMISSION

“We must never forget that Black history is American History. The achievements of African Americans have contributed to our nation’s greatness.”

YVETTE CLARKE

Save the dates

Professional
Development Series
for Academic Year
2025- 2026

Summer Institute 2026
August 3-6
Kean University
Union, New Jersey

Summer Institute 2027
August 2-5