



## **Amistad Commission's William Payne Exemplary Administrator/Supervisor Award Program 2025/2026 School Year**

The Amistad Commission's William Payne Exemplary Administrator/ Supervisor Award Program was codified by the New Jersey Legislature and signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy on August 31, 2021. The Award is designed to promote teaching the Amistad curriculum in New Jersey schools, enhance the social studies literacy of students, and encourage the infusion of African American history into the social studies curriculum.

The intent of the Award is to recognize and acknowledge the leadership of a New Jersey Exemplary School Administrator/Supervisor, who has shown commitment to supporting staff members with professional and technical assistance on the implementation of the Amistad Law. Specifically, on the supervision of educators providing instruction for students on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the contributions of African Americans to our society as codified in Public Law 2004, Chapter 75).

The Commission invites all New Jersey schools (districts, charters, and renaissances) to submit nominees of supervisors/administrators who have been instrumental in the implementation of the Amistad Legislature. The Commission will select one individual to receive an award presented at the Amistad Commission's Summer Institute 2026 at Kean University.

The award recipient's school/ district will receive **\$1,500**. The funds are for the district's implementation of the Amistad Law.

### **THE AWARD PROCESS**

#### **STEP 1: NOMINATION**

**Eligibility-New Jersey school superintendents, administrators/supervisors, including administrators in charter or renaissance schools.**

#### **Documentation:**

Each nominee must submit:

- Summary of accomplishments within the 2025/2026 school year that provide evidence of infusion of the contributions of Africans and African Americans in the context of American History courses in social studies, world history, and other disciplines (Visual or Performing Arts, Language Arts Literacy, Science, World Languages, Math, etc.).

- Evidentiary documentation of professional developments or training attended and conducted for educators in your building or district promoting the Amistad Curriculum, activities, or videos.
- At least three letters of support from building/district staff members in instructional roles.
- Documentation (videos) of teachers/student's lessons, projects or building level programs. (Black History, Women's History, African Hispanic/Asian Pacific History Month)

**The deadline for submitting a nomination form and supporting materials is June 18, 2026.**

Please submit all materials electronically to the Amistad Commission Williams Payne Exemplary Administrator/Supervisor Award: [Amistad Commission's William Payne Exemplary Administrator/Supervisor Award Program](#)

## **STEP 2: SELECTION**

All applications will be reviewed by a state-level committee to determine which applicants best exemplify excellence in implementing the Amistad Law.

**After the selection process, the Amistad Commission will notify the recipient of the award prior to June 30, 2026. The Amistad Commission will publicly acknowledge the winner of the Amistad Commission's William Payne Exemplary Administrator/Supervisor Award at the 2026 Amistad Commission's Summer Institute at Kean University- Union, New Jersey on July 30, 2026.**

Dr. Patrick Lamy



Executive Director  
The Amistad Commission  
State of New Jersey, Department of Education