

Curriculum Website: www.njamistad.com

The website offers comprehensive lesson plans, interactive tools and digital resources to make learning more dynamic and fun for students.

Resource Folder – Materials and resources provided by plenary speakers and facilitators:
2026 Summer Institute Resource Materials

The Amistad Commission actively engages in community events, curriculum consortiums, state and national social studies, historical society programs, education association events, and museum initiatives to expand awareness, share resources, and strengthen the teaching of African American history across New Jersey and beyond.

Find opportunities for professional growth with our curated selection of workshops, webinars, and training materials.

History Day-Incorporate research into your classrooms by signing up for:
https://njamistad.com/get-involved/

Preparing Future NJ Educators

The Amistad Commission proudly hosts an annual Summer Institute at colleges across New Jersey, a dynamic residential professional learning experience for educators. Participants immerse themselves in inspiring keynote addresses, thought-provoking plenaries, and hands-on track sessions tailored to elementary, middle, and high school levels. Every session is designed to equip teachers with practical tools, fresh strategies, and ready-to-use resources that bring African American history to life in the classroom.

Registration: Amistad Commission's Summer Institute 2027

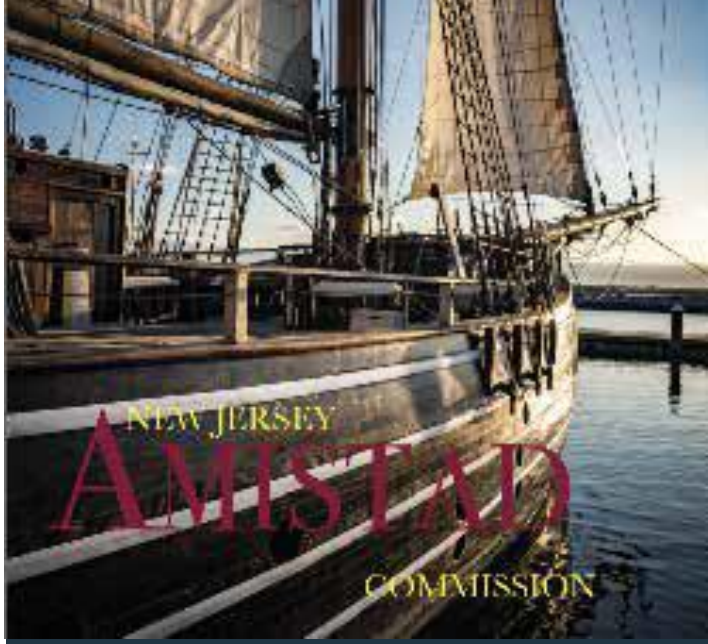


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2027 Summer Institute



August 3rd-5th

The College of New Jersey



Patrick J. Lamy,
Executive Director

We are pleased to invite all New Jersey educators to the 2027 Summer Institute. The institute will be held both in-person and virtually at The College of New Jersey, fromAugust 3rd-5th, 2027.

The Amistad Legislation

On August 27, 2002, the Governor of New Jersey signed into law the "Amistad Bill" (A1301), sponsored by Assemblymen William D. Payne and Craig A. Stanley. The bill created an "Amistad Commission" in honor of the enslaved Africans who gained their freedom after overthrowing the crew of the slave ship Amistad in 1839. The Commission's mandate is to promote a wider implementation of educational awareness programs regarding the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the many contributions Africans have made to American society. The Amistad Bill created historic legislation for not only the state of New Jersey but also for opening a revolutionary new chapter for teaching our nation's history. The New Jersey legislation was and remains an important, national landmark event.

When the Amistad legislation was introduced and passed, the public as well as many K-12 educators, and even many of the Commissioners, presumed that the goal would be to introduce African American history into the K-12 curriculum and to develop public programs on African American history for children, families, and communities. Other states and cities had proposed similar legislation before 2002. In fact, a simple online search reveals curricular materials on African American history nationwide: in Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kansas, the state of Washington, and Georgia.

Please visit our website, www.njamistad.com, to explore the free resources and opportunities for you to be involved in upholding this and other mandates.

The Amistad Commission's primary goals are to:

(1.) Infuse the history of Africans and African Americans into the curriculum in order to provide an accurate, complete and inclusive history in New Jersey public school classroom.
(2.) Provide professional development, in-service workshops, supportive resources/tools, and a residential summer institutes for New Jersey teachers.
(3.) Create curriculum support materials that help teachers to effectively teach content aligned to the revised core curriculum content standards and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
(4.)Assist in developing lesson plans in accordance with a variety of subject area.
(5.) Survey, design, encourage, and promote the implementation of education and awareness programs in New Jersey concerned with the contributions of African Americans in building our country.

The New Jersey Amistad Commission (NJAC) Summer Institute

The 2027 NJAC Summer Institute will mark its twentieth year of operation. This three day program features daily keynote speakers and break-out sessions for New Jersey educators to participate. The sessions are offerred across three tracks, elementary, middle, and high school. They are designed and implemented by experienced educators after submitting a proposal to the commission.



Future Educators of New Jersey
AMISTAD
FREEDOM & JUSTICE 1839
The New Jersey Amistad Commission

The New Jersey Amistad Commission recognizes the gap in African American historical content instruction in teacher preparation programs across the country. Many of the programs that do, may fall short in encompassing the scope of the past and ongoing contributions in the development of this country by African Americans. It is then vital that future educators be trained to be confident in their own knowledge base and competencies to effectively teach this subject matter that expands well beyond the slave trade and sanitized histories. To address the gap in New Jersey, the commission is launching a special **Future Educators Track** during the 2026 summer curriculum institute.

The commission strongly feels this new initiative will be highly beneficial for teacher candidates in their professional development subsequently strengthening their job pursuits. There will be breakout sessions tailored to pre-service college students centered on:

(1.) Professional Development/Effective Interview Skills
(2.) Differentiated Instruction
(3.) Substitute Certification Processing
(4.) Demo Lesson Development
(5.) Behavioral Management.

Participation by future educators will be at no cost, and upon completion, receive 25-28 Continuing Education Units that can be applied to the full-time teacher requirement for completing 100 hours every five years.