



"Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program"

The Amistad Commission Exemplary 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 celebrate the work of New Jersey's exemplary teachers, who commit to furthering student knowledge 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).

Each year on February 1, the Commission invites all New Jersey schools (district, charter, and renaissance) to submit nominees of teacher(s) who develop exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of study that implement the Amistad curriculum as aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), and that may be replicated by other teachers.

From the list of nominees, the Award committee will select two teachers to receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award: One teacher representing Grades K-8 and one teacher representing Grades 9-12.

Each award recipient receives \$2,500 in recognition of his or her extraordinary contributions. In addition, the recipient's school district receives \$2,500. The funds are for the district's implement of the Amistad curriculum.

Eligibility

All K-12 teachers currently under contract at least 60% in a New Jersey school district, charter school, and or renaissance school.

THE AWARD PROCESS

STEP 1: NOMINATION

ANYONE—principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the public—may nominate exceptional teaching of the Amistad curriculum in Grades K-12. Nominations may be submitted for more than one teacher at each program level (K-8 and high school). Teachers may also nominate themselves.

Documentation

Each nominee must submit:

- Summary of accomplishments within the past two years 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 exemplary lessons promoting the Amistad Curriculum
- Lesson plans
- Student projects
- Videos
- School or district-level student-centered programs, projects, activities, or videos.

Please submit all materials electronically to **Ms. Glender Terrell**, Administrative Assistant – Amistad Commission (glender.terrell@doe.nj.gov)

The deadline to submit a nomination form and supporting materials is **May 12, 2023**.

All submissions must include the teacher's full name, telephone number, an email address; school and district information, and grade level and/or course.

STEP 2: SELECTION

All applications undergo state-level committee review to determine which applicants best exemplify excellence in teaching that meet or exceed accepted state standards and the Amistad mandate. A Selection Committee will evaluate all submissions and select two finalists for the award.

After the selection process, the Committee will recognize each award recipient at the end of the school year. The award will be presented at the 2023 Summer Institute in July.



Dr. Patrick Lamy
Executive Director
The Amistad Commission
State of New Jersey, Department of Education