



## **NJDOE News**

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### **DOE SPONSORS "DARE TO DREAM" STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Today, the New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs, in collaboration with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, is sponsoring its first in a series of "Dare to Dream" Student Leadership conferences in the month of May 2004. Today's conference will be held at Rutgers University's Busch Campus Center, Busch Campus, in Piscataway, NJ.

The "Dare to Dream" Student Leadership Conference for High School Students provides an opportunity for students to learn self-determination skills and network with other students throughout the state. Participants will take part in workshops, many led by other students, dealing with topics such as goal setting, self-discovery, student self-advocacy, Individualized Education Program (IEP) development, and assistance with preparing students with disabilities for post-secondary education opportunities. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year the conference has been held.

All students with disabilities who are enrolled at the high school level and are eligible for special education services and their parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Representatives of the Department of education and other state agencies will also be available to discuss issues or concerns of both parents and students related to the conference topics.

Larry Jacobs, the Assistant Director of the Career Center at Rutgers University, will be the keynote speaker at the Rutgers conference. His keynote address is entitled "Getting It Together, Identifying Your Identity."

Other "Dare To Dream" conferences are scheduled throughout the state and at various colleges and universities. The upcoming dates and locations for the meetings are as follows:

- May 11, 2004 at Burlington County College;
- May 17, 2004 at Bergen County College;
- May 19, 2004 at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ);
- May 24, 2004 at Montclair State University;
- May 26, 2004 at Ocean County College; and
- May 28, 2004 at Union County College

For more information, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.