



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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*Governor*

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*Lt. Governor*

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*Acting Commissioner*

February 7, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Directors of Special Education

FROM: Lorelei Drew-Nevola, Director  
Office of Special Education Professional Development

SUBJECT: Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conferences

The New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) Office of Special Education Professional Development is sponsoring eight regional Dare to Dream Student Leadership conferences in April and May that are designed to help high school students with disabilities prepare for college and career.

The Department urges high school staff who work with students with disabilities to encourage their students to participate in Dare to Dream. Each conference features keynote presentations from accomplished students and young adults with disabilities who have demonstrated exemplary self-advocacy and leadership skills. Additionally, the program includes a variety of concurrent workshops that provide attendees insight into the transition from school to adult life. The conference gives students the opportunity to participate in workshops led by their peers on topics such as self-discovery, student self-advocacy, learning styles, developing a career path, and understanding your rights and responsibilities in college. Dare to Dream has long been a positive and empowering experience for thousands of New Jersey students.

Due to the popularity of the program, registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, with a priority given to districts that have students presenting a breakout session, musical performance or keynote presentation.

The dates and locations for the Dare to Dream conferences are:

- April 27, 2017 – Concordia Learning Center, Jersey City
- May 5, 2017 – Rowan College at Burlington County, Mount Laurel Campus
- May 15, 2017 – Stockton University, Galloway Township
- May 17, 2017 – Rider University, Lawrence Township
- May 19, 2017 – Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg
- May 22, 2017 – William Paterson University, Wayne
- May 25, 2017 – Middlesex County College, Edison
- May 31, 2017 – Montclair State University, Montclair

There is no charge to students or staff for the conference. A continental breakfast and lunch are provided to all participants. Professional staff from your district must accompany students to the conference in sufficient numbers to ensure adequate supervision throughout the day.

Visit the [Dare to Dream webpage](#) for information on student registration and participation in a regional Dare to Dream conference.

If you have questions regarding the conference or if your students wish to conduct a workshop or keynote, please contact Bob Haugh at (609) 633-6431.

LDN/bh

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Acting Commissioner, Kimberley Harrington  
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Diane Shoener  
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