Creating 21st Century New Jersey Schools
Phase 2: Critical Transformations

New Jersey Department of Education
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New Jersey Department of Education has funded “Creating 21st Century New Jersey Schools Phase 2: Critical Transformations”. Carol James, Co-Director of Center for Innovative Education at Kean University, will be the Principle Investigator. The Center for Innovative Education (CIE) at Kean University is a professional development organization that focuses on 21st century pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning that will assist educators in preparing students for the technologically-driven global workplace.

CIE provides a balanced approach to meeting the demands of educational accountability and the challenges of the 21st century global environment. Toward that end, it offers both onsite and online professional development experiences, ranging from workshops to national conferences, on a variety of topics that include the exploration and application of cutting-edge technologies aligned with key state and national initiatives.

In June 2009, The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Center for Innovative Education (CIE) at Kean University to create 21st Century New Jersey Schools through professional development as envisioned by the NJ Statewide Systemic Model for Continuous Professional Learning and Growth. The MOU focused on the implementation of Phase 1 of the model, the Awareness and Familiarization Phase. Following the implementation of Phase I NJDOE entered into a second MOU with CIE, to assist in the development and implementation of Phase 2, Creating 21st Century New Jersey Schools: the NJ Statewide Systemic Model for Continuous Professional Learning and Growth. Phase 2 will began February 2, 2010 and will end December 31, 2010.

The goal of Phase 2, entitled Critical Transformations, is to provide ongoing professional development throughout 2010 to educators through Modules of New Learning offered statewide that address: content specific standards and related instructional/assessment strategies, integration of new technologies, changing teacher/leadership roles and professional learning communities. Phase 2 onsite and online learning opportunities include those offered in partnership with other professional organizations (NJPISA/FEA, NJASCD, NJASA, NJEA, NJSBA) offered to targeted audiences of classroom teachers, administrators (Curriculum Coordinators, IT, Content Supervisors), Chief School Administrators, School Boards. The primary outcome of Phase 2 will be using and applying the 2009 Core Curriculum Content Standards as the conceptual framework for 21st century teaching and learning that results in higher levels of student achievement in New Jersey schools.