

Dear Advisor,

Please join us from **Tuesday, June 2nd – Thursday, June 4th, 2009** for The 9th Annual New Jersey Peer Institute. The NJ Peer Institute will be held at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ and is sponsored by the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety. The Peer Institute was developed to enhance college peer leadership and educator programs through interactive education and demonstrations. Students and their advisors will work together to gain skills to successfully implement new programs on their own campuses. The event is a fun, interactive, and dynamic educational opportunity aimed at expanding the abilities of peer educators.

The NJ Peer Institute 2009 will also incorporate the nationally recognized Bacchus Gamma Peer Certification Curriculum and will provide testing for Peer Educator Certification at the completion of the event. We will supply preparation workbooks for the test and will cover the cost of the testing and certification. Concepts to be covered throughout the event will focus on the necessary skills needed to successfully complete the certification test. These concepts include:

- ★ Understanding the Power of Peer Education
- ★ Strategies for Change in High Risk Behaviors
- ★ Listening Skills
- ★ Responding and Referral Skills
- ★ Intervention Skills
- ★ Developing Inclusive Peer Education Efforts
- ★ Programming and Presentation Skills
- ★ Taking Care of Yourself
- ★ Group Development and Success

Please note that the Bacchus Gamma curriculum has been updated. While individuals who already have their Certification will not need to re-take the test, the information throughout the course will be valuable to all participants of the Peer Institute, both old and new.

Separate advisor discussions, breakout sessions, and a high school student piece will also be included in *The NJ Peer Institute's* agenda. Topics and presenters for the advisor sessions are still being discussed, but we hope for these sessions to supply advisors with fresh ideas to bring back to their respective campuses. The high school component plans to bring numerous high school students to the event on the morning of the 4th to enable your peer leaders to put their skills into action by sharing their experiences and knowledge with these visiting students. More information on this component will follow. We believe that this piece will be a worthwhile learning and skill development component for both your students and the high school students. In addition, advisors and students may also opt to present on topics of interest or programs established at their school.

As always, the Peer Institute will include free registration, meals, and overnight rooms for you and your students. Certified Peer Educator (CPE) certification will also be free. Rooms are double occupancy for students, single occupancy for advisors.

We ask that as advisors you and your students commit to attendance. If a student needs to cancel following registration, please see that there is a predetermined student ready to replace him or her. We ask that all attendance counts and names are not changed following May 15th, at the absolute latest. REGISTER EARLY, AS SPACE IS LIMITED!

Please market this event to your student leaders and/or peer educators (Please contact us if you would like the event flyer to be sent to you).

If you have any questions, please contact us at 609-771-2571 or via e-mail at leibow2@tcnj.edu (Matt Leibowitz).

Sincerely,

Matt Leibowitz
Peer Institute Consultant

Joe Hadge
Coordinator of ADEP