



## 2024 Teacher Testimonials

“I am sincerely grateful for the Summer Institute for Educators experience. As a result, I have been rejuvenated and inspired for the new school year. I learned so much and look forward to sharing this new wealth of information with colleagues, school administration, as well as past, present and future students.”

***Paula A. Antonelli***  
***Carusi Middle School***

“The Summer Institute changed me in unexpected ways. To be immersed within the gears that churn the system of South Jersey business offers insights, understanding, and a felt sense of place that no book or lecture could create.”

***Carly Chaapel***  
***Salem County Career & Technical High School***

“Awesome!! This program is eye-opening and helps educators better prepare students for their future careers, training and educational opportunities. It is a unique approach to prepare students for the future and is highly informative. I cannot wait to share my experience and knowledge with my students and coworkers. There are potential careers for EVERYONE!”

***Debbie DeRosa***  
***Folsom Elementary School***

“The Institute offers a unique opportunity to connect with educators striving for greatness both inside and outside the classroom. By providing a wide variety of business tours, the program shows how strong the South Jersey Business community is. The exposure to the community, and the businesses that serve them, will undoubtedly enhance the opportunities I provide my students.”

***Michael DiFrancesco***  
***Kingsway Regional High School***

“What an amazing adventure it was to explore so many industries in South Jersey. It was nice to see how our communities have ways for us to continue to thrive, re-energize, and regrow!”

***Kristen Figueroa***  
***West Avenue School***

“The Summer Institute is an extraordinary experience. The importance of engaging with South Jersey businesses will enhance your skills as an educator.”

***Colleen Hall***  
***Dr. Henry H. Davis Family School***

"Wow, what an empowering, eye-opening learning experience! South Jersey businesses have a huge impact not only in our region, but also the entire United States, and for some, internationally. Who knew they were located right here in South Jersey! Learning about the companies and their employees' career paths and skill sets will unquestionably help me to better prepare my students for the workplace. Moreover, learning about how these businesses are committed to supporting and giving back to the community was heartwarming. There is nothing like the South Jersey Summer Institute for Educators. Thank you for this amazing adventure."

***Karen Humphries***  
***Pemberton Township High School***

“This program will truly open GIANT DOORS to a pathway between our world in education and the workforce. Not only will the Institute give you multiple connections to real-world experiences for your students, but you will also learn about job opportunities you never knew existed.”

***Jen Liguori***  
***Deptford Middle School***

“The South Jersey Summer Institute is a transformative experience that allows you to guide your students to a successful and fulfilling future.”

***Katelyn Madden***  
***Deptford Middle School***

“The SJSI made me proud to be from and an educator in South Jersey. Every day was informative, exciting, and fun! I feel revitalized and ready to bring this information to my students.”

***Lisa Marandola***  
***Clearview Regional High School***

“The insights and ideas shared by the various businesses and presenters were incredibly valuable. I am eager to apply the information learned during the Summer Institute in the classroom to benefit my students”.

***April Marchesano-Hemminger***  
***Vineland High School***

“The South Jersey Summer Institute has been an informative and beneficial program to further educate my students in the economics of South Jersey. I would wholeheartedly recommend attending this program to network with the power players in this region.”

***Tom Mason***  
***Burlington County Institute of Technology***

“The Summer Institute was immensely valuable for my students as I will now have the opportunity to provide them with real connections to a variety of South Jersey businesses. I am so very grateful for the opportunity and will recommend the program to others without hesitation.” (for publication)

“The hospitality and positive reception to our group speaks volumes to the businesses understanding of the continuing value of the program. All the companies and individuals that hosted us were amazing.” (additional note for companies)

***Jim McShea***  
***Bridgeton High School***

“The Summer Institute provides the opportunity to visit dynamic businesses, gaining firsthand insight into industry needs. This validates your work as an educator and strengthens our community connection. You feel more professional, respected, and valued than any other form of professional development. You may gain 10 pounds with breakfast and lunch you love, but even better you fill your teacher soul.”

***Scott Monro***  
***Camden County Technical Schools***

“The tours during the Summer Institute for Educators were invaluable for teachers, offering critical insights into employer needs and expectations, particularly regarding soft skills. These experiences underscored the importance of preparing students for entry level positions that can provide them with high paying careers in the trade industry with opportunities for upward mobility through tuition reimbursement and continuing learning.”

***Josephine Parr***  
***Eastside High School***

“What an eye-opening three weeks! Professional development at its best! I have been rejuvenated and look forward to getting back to the classroom to be the best teacher I can be!”

***Jennifer Sorbello***  
***Woodstown High School***

“South Jersey Summer Institute was an eye-opener for me. I loved all the tours and panel discussions. I cannot wait to return back to school and tell my co-workers. Also, receiving ALL the goodies bags was a plus. It also was a reminder why I do what I do, especially working with students with special needs.”

***Lynn C. Taylor***  
***Bancroft School***