



2025 Teacher Testimonials

“There are experiences that can truly shift the trajectory of your personal and professional life—and the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey’s Summer Institute for Educators is one of those rare opportunities. The insights and connections I gained will be invaluable for years to come. I highly recommend this program to all educators.”

Dina Strachan
Woodstown High School

“This is hands down the best professional development I’ve ever participated in! The sponsoring companies, Chamber staff, and fellow attendees were absolutely amazing. The knowledge I gained is priceless, and I’m thrilled to bring it back to my staff and students.”

Noreen DeMarco
Paulsboro High School

“The South Jersey Summer Institute provides essential and impactful information that is critical for preparing the future workforce. It opened my eyes to the many opportunities available to our students and gave me practical tools to help guide them toward success.”

Kaitlin Alvarez
Dr. Henry H. Davis Family School

“This program is a must! I strongly encourage all educators to get involved—it’s an investment in the future of our students, our counties, and our state.”

Judith Cruz
Cumberland County Technical Education Center

“This program reassured me that people outside of education truly value what we do. Preparing our children to become productive citizens requires a team effort, and I feel blessed to have been part of this initiative.”

William Welcher
Cinnaminson Middle School

“The Summer Institute was an incredible experience. Learning about the history and impact of local businesses helped me see how every student—regardless of whether they pursue a degree—has a place in the workforce. These are experiences we wouldn’t have had without this program. Thank you!”

Theresa Rosenberg
Jordan Road Middle School

“Applying to the Summer Institute was one of the best decisions I’ve made for my students. It was fun, informative, and eye-opening. I learned so much about local businesses and career paths, many of which offer real growth opportunities without a college degree. The program was expertly organized and ran like a well-oiled machine, thanks to our amazing facilitators.”

Andrea Thompson
Dr. Henry H. Davis Family School

“The Summer Institute helped me grow into a more confident educator—someone who not only has valuable knowledge to share but is now eager to collaborate and exchange ideas with other professionals.”

Jessica Heady
Kingsway Regional High School

“The South Jersey Summer Institute was a phenomenal experience. I gained a deeper understanding of how to prepare my students for the many opportunities available right here in our own backyard.”

Vanessa Paggioli
Thomas E. Bowe Middle School

“The Summer Institute was a transformative experience. I’m leaving with a wealth of knowledge, meaningful contacts, and a deeper understanding of South Jersey’s business landscape—all of which I’m excited to bring back to my students.”

Sonny Bryan
Clearview Regional High School

“I didn’t realize how important my role was in South Jersey’s business ecosystem until I attended the Institute. I now feel empowered to share with my students all that our region has to offer—and the value of this incredible program.”

Zachery Sminkey
Woodstown Middle School

“The Summer Institute inspired me to complete my journey to become a teacher. It opened my eyes to the power of change—one child at a time. My special needs community deserves better, and this program reminded me that we can build a world that works for everyone.”

Tonya Cushion
Bancroft School