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ACTING STATE SUPERINTENDENT

CAMDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Camden's Brimm Medical Arts High School achieves Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification

Superintendent applauds students and staff for being the first urban high school in New Jersey to receive prestigious sustainability status

November 15, 2018, Camden, NJ – Following months of planning and hundreds of hours of hard work, today the Brimm Medical Arts High School celebrated receiving Sustainable Jersey for Schools (SJS) Bronze Certification. Acting State Superintendent Katrina McCombs applauded the staff and students for their efforts, which aim to reduce the school's environmental footprint, improve energy efficiency, and incorporate environmental stewardship and sustainability into the school's curriculum.

Working in partnership with the national Go Green Initiative, and supported by funding from the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority and Covanta, an international waste management company, Brimm students and staff worked together to identify the interconnections between health, the environment, and education. To receive the Bronze Certification, school educators, students, and District staff completed a series of actions to commit to sustainability and to create a long term plan for improved efficiency and sustainability year-on-year. These included:

- Installing rain barrels and creating rain gardens to improve waste water drainage;
- Completing a waste audit to see how the school could produce less and recycle more;
- Creating lesson plans and professional development opportunities for staff and students to deepen their knowledge of sustainability and its effect in the community and society;
- Creating a school sustainability vision, with annual goals and plans for improving Brimm's environmental footprint each year.

Students and staff were on hand to show the Superintendent the many ways their school is contributing to an efficient and environmentally aware community.

Jill Buck, Founder of the Go Green Initiative, said, "I have worked with over 3,500 schools in all 50 states in their efforts to Go Green. I've seen some incredibly impressive schools, but in nearly 20 years of being in environmental education, I have never seen a school accomplish so much in one school year as Brimm. What Brimm and the Camden City School District have achieved in recycling and waste management are nothing short of incredible. The staff and students here should be extremely proud."

"I applaud Brimm students, teachers, and administrators for their laser-like focus on being the first school in Camden to achieve a Sustainable Jersey for Schools honor," said Acting State Superintendent Katrina McCombs. "We must embed sustainability into everything we do as educators. In the classroom, educators

are engaging students about new ways to minimize their impact on the local and global environment. School buildings are working to improve efficiency and minimize their waste. At the District level we are implementing a new system wide sustainability policy, and are supporting other schools to follow Brimm's lead and gain Sustainable Schools for Jersey certification."

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Note to editors: Brimm Medical Arts High School is a specialty magnet high school focused on providing students with exposures to careers in the health sciences industry. The school boasts a 90%+ graduation and college acceptance rate. With over 95% of students eligible for free or reduced lunch, Brimm operates a high achieving school in one of New Jersey's most high needs communities. This makes Brimm's Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification such a special achievement. While this certification is more commonplace for suburban schools, Brimm is the first school from a high poverty city in New Jersey to receive certification. This year Camden City School District will work with other schools in the City to replicate Brimm's achievement and build a District of sustainable, efficient, and future-focused public schools.



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