

**The Achievements of New Jersey Citizens:  
THE NEW JERSEY HALL OF FAME**

New Jersey is one of the few states that has instituted the Hall of Fame. It is used to showcase the powerful and inspiring role models that are indigenous to the Garden State. The individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame have proven to be outstanding. They have soared above mediocrity to achieve unimaginable goals. These role models have made invaluable contributions to our society and the world beyond. Their stories, as part of the Hall of Fame initiative, not only teach young people about the intricacies of the voting process, but also reinforce the message to students that they can and should strive for excellence in everything they pursue. Each and every one of us is capable of great things, just like the inductees.

The New Jersey Hall of Fame makes it very easy for educators to become interactive participants in the nomination, voting, and induction of new members each and every year. There is a teaching unit on the website designed to allow classroom teachers (K – 12) to include their students in this process. This curriculum was written by two teachers from Gloucester County, Ann Hill and Marie Blistan from Washington Township High School.

Marie Blistan is a special education instructor and the President of the Gloucester County Education Association. Ann Hill is a library/media specialist. These ladies have created a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, collaborative, techno-infused curriculum that children of all ages can be a part of. This historical unit allows children to view New Jersey and its citizens in the larger context of the impact and implications they have on the United States and the rest of the world.

Accolades continue to pour in from across the state to the co-authors of this curriculum. The model they have established for classroom involvement serves as the framework for all other states. These ladies, like the nominees that are being considered for induction, are examples of excellence. The Hall of Fame is envisioned as “a source of learning, inspiration and hope for all New Jersey children.” So are the phenomenal women that created the curriculum. Well done Marie and Ann, well done!