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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rutgers' Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education
Closing Ceremony on May 12**

Eighteen New Jersey teachers will be honored for completion of the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI), a two-year, statewide study program designed to develop expert teachers in Holocaust studies. This special event will be held on Wednesday, May 12 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Trayes Hall at the Douglass Campus Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. The MTI is offered through Rutgers' Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), and the May 12th ceremony is sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers. The event is closed to the public, but press coverage is invited.

On display will be a special exhibit of teachers' projects undertaken as part of the curriculum of the MTI. Projects include interactive web units, Holocaust survivor interviews, human rights awareness, and teaching the Holocaust to students with disabilities to name a few. (A full list of MTI participants and their projects is attached.)

The keynote address "New Trends in Holocaust Studies: Scholarship, Politics, and Public Culture," will be delivered by Omer Bartov, the John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History at Brown University and formerly of Rutgers. Considered one of the world's leading authorities on the Holocaust and genocide, Bartov is the author of seven books and the editor of three volumes. His most recent book, *Erased: Vanishing Traces of Jewish Galicia in Present-Day Ukraine* (Princeton, 2007), examines the politics of memory in Western Ukraine and erasure of both the memory and the few material remains of Jewish culture there.

The MTI has been training teachers to serve as resource providers in their schools, districts, and communities since 2005, when the program was launched. It engages teachers in a wide-ranging study of the history of the Holocaust and its remembrance, and relates the study

of the Holocaust to such larger issues as prejudice and genocide. (A list of session topics and speakers is attached.)

The MTI also creates a supportive network for the teachers. The participants create educational programs and enhanced curricula for their schools and districts based on their learning experiences. The goal of each project is to positively impact the school and create an environment of tolerance and understanding.

This educator training project has been supported by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Additional support has been provided by the Marjorie and Egon Berg Endowed Holocaust Education Fund and Drs. Eva and Ted Stahl.

The Littman HRC is an important component of the Bildner Center's overall mission of prejudice reduction and outreach to the broader community. Its mission is to teach future generations about the Holocaust by training educators, and providing educational materials to teachers, students and scholars. It also provides programs that enhance public awareness of the Holocaust and promote discussion of racism, genocide, discrimination, and the importance of protecting human rights.

The Bildner Center connects Rutgers University with the community through public lectures, symposia, Jewish communal initiatives, cultural events, and teacher training.