



Contact: Beth Coyle
Phone: 856-361-1014
Email: bcoyle@njaas.org

Camden Youth Celebrate at CAUSE Graduation Ceremony

The New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences is proud to announce this year's graduates of the CAUSE (Community and Urban Science Enrichment) Program – Maria Acevedo, Jamir Kirkland, and Jenavia Mass. All three Camden high school seniors have graduated and will be attending college this fall.

On **Tuesday, August 4, 2009 from 6:30-9:00 p.m.** the New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences will honor these graduates of the program with a ceremony and dinner in the Currents Ballroom at Adventure Aquarium.

CAUSE is a year-round program for high school students from Camden, New Jersey. Students are chosen based on their enthusiasm and interest, not on academic standing. During the year, the teens learn aquatic and other sciences in college-level classes, participate in workshops on career-building and leadership skills, and become paid employees of the Academy teaching Summer Science Camps to Camden elementary and middle school students. The teens are mentored through the program by caring staff and become mentors themselves for younger children. Twenty-five to forty high school students participate yearly, and they teach 150-200 elementary school students in summer camps. The program has received a great deal of recognition locally and regionally as a model for youth development. **100% of CAUSE youth have graduated high school and in the past five years, 100% have enrolled in college.**

The New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences is celebrating 20 years of furthering our mission “to promote the understanding, appreciation, and protection of aquatic life and habitats through research, education and youth development programs.” In performing this mission, the Academy strives to be a responsible member of the community, assisting in its economic and social redevelopment by providing opportunities for education, enrichment and employment.