

New Jersey Jaycees hosts '16 Eastern Institute Convention

Written by Administrator
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New Jersey Jaycees. From left, Rev. Emil Rapada, Ria Serrano, Shine Wann, Joyce Andes-David and Arman David. (Photo courtesy of Arman David)

**By RIA SERRANO
President, New Jersey Jaycees**

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On May 13-15, 2016, the New Jersey Jaycees hosted the 2016 Eastern Institute at the Holiday Inn in Clark, N.J.

The Eastern Institute (EI) is one of the five institutes in the U.S. Junior Chamber.

This particular institute is a group of affiliated Jaycee state organizations formed to advance the Junior Chamber movement.

The Institute is comprised of states with the leadership of JCI USA State Presidents Dominic Hanna (DE), Travis Fisher (MD), Erika Echavarria (NY), this writer (NJ), Peter Urscheler (PA) and Craig Joseph Erbacher (WV).

Over the past weekend, the member states were trained to strengthen their member advocacy strategies, maximize their skills as officers and members, and develop their understanding on social dynamics to help resolve conflicts.

The training was provided by the organization's expert on the subjects, incumbent national membership director and presidential candidate for 2017 Heather Vardell, JCI USA 95th President Sen Jennifer, Judith Hodorovich Ray, JCI USA 90th President Jeff Lank, and JCI Senator Scott Kingsley.

Additionally, the event provided a venue for the Jaycees to socialize and meet others within the organization.

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Convention delegates from Northeastern States. (Photo courtesy of Arman David)