

**Biographical Information**  
**Joseph G. Amara, Ed.D.**  
**Director, Education Resources and Programs**  
**Learning & Teaching**  
**Liberty Science Center**

Joe Amara holds a BS in Physical Science Education from Seton Hall University, a Master of Arts degree in Supervision and Science Education from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a Doctor of Education degree in Technology Education from Nova Southeastern University. He began his physics teaching career in East Orange and then taught physics for 22 years in West New York. He has developed and implemented curricula in physics, astronomy, elementary science, computer education, and career education. Joe took charge of technology for West New York from its introduction and created a viable infrastructure, working with stakeholders and field professionals. He oversaw student instruction, staff development, curriculum development, and management of the district's technology, and wrote the long range technology plan that was accepted by the State Department of Education and is currently in use. He was a founding member of the Hudson County Technology Committee for the Commissioner of Education, and has been a Computer Education instructor at the Millburn Adult School for over 15 years. He has owned a technology consulting business that assisted small businesses by creating database management systems and equipment maintenance. Joe has also taught English as a Second Language to adult learners, and served as District Supervisor of Special Education for West New York from 1993 to 1998. He is an elected member of the Bergenfield Board of Education, having served as its president in 1997-98. Joe has been the recipient of numerous awards and citations: he has received National Science Foundation Fellowships in Electronics, Energy, Computer Science, Microcomputer in Labs, and Physics Education; and received the New Jersey Commissioner of Education award for Outstanding Teaching and the American Chemical Society's award for Outstanding Science Teaching. Since coming to Liberty Science Center over four years ago, Joe has been a Science Content Developer, working with staff to incorporate high quality content into programs and delivering science information to staff and guests in various formats. Joe was promoted to Leader of Program Development creating using his expertise and experience to develop grant proposals. He currently serves as Director, Education Resources and Programs, and is responsible for coordination and oversight of the Jennifer A. Chalsty Center for Science Learning & Teaching including the design of the facility; coordination of the delivery of programs for students, families and guests; oversight of the scientists in residence; and general operations.