Stockton to Host Re-Employment Conference

Effort Underway to Help Community Members Cope During Economic Downturn

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in collaboration with Atlantic Cape Community College and the Atlantic Cape Workforce Investment Board will host a conference on January 14 designed to help community members displaced by the economy to re-enter the workforce.

"The Three Rs (Re-entry, Re-Invent, Resources) of Re-Employment" Conference will include sessions on how displaced workers might market themselves during tough economic conditions and retool skills to be more attractive to a wide range of employers.

The event, open to the public, will take place from 8:30 to noon on Wednesday, January 14, 2008 at the Townsend Residential Life Center on the Galloway Township campus. Cost is \$10 for early registration by January 6 and \$15 thereafter (until January 13).

The conference is the latest step the College has undertaken to help community members during what has been acknowledged by the federal government as a recession in the U.S. economy.

"As one of the stable segments in the economy, higher education has an obligation to help community members less fortunate," said Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., President.

In addition to the conference, Stockton recently took the unprecedented step of lowering undergraduate tuition by 10 percent for its upcoming summer session, and housing costs by 20 percent. Stockton's Office of Career Planning hosts several employment fairs each year and offers its network of job postings and expert career counseling for community members. Stockton's Small Business Development Center at the Carnegie Library Center in Atlantic City helps people transition to the benefits of entrepreneurial work.

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In highlighting the service the College is partnering to offer the community, President Saatkamp states that "Stockton has resources, expertise and facilities to help displaced workers through difficult times. We're offering these resources to our community members as well as our students."

The January conference offers specific strategies for unemployed professionals, according to Executive Director of Continuing Studies for Health Sciences and Human Services Cynthia Sosnowski. "We will be helping people with résumé development strategies, utilizing 21st Century job search resources and even social networking to help find employment."

An additional session at the conference will inform attendees about in-demand careers and the requirements of marketable applicants in today's workforce and that of the future. Panelists will include a wide range of Stockton faculty and staff, and will also include representatives from Atlantic Cape Community College and the Workforce Investment Board One Stop Career Center.

"Although people have been displaced by the current state of the economy, there remain opportunities for those savvy enough to reposition, use the skills they have and acquire new skills," Sosnowski said.

The cost of the conference includes a continental breakfast. For more information or to register, please call (609) 652-4227 or log onto www.stockton.edu/hshs and click on 'Conferences.' To be placed on the mailing list, please e-mail cs-hshs@stockton.edu.