

Stockton University, Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation to Host Ability Fair Friday

Free Demonstrations by Vendors, Workshops by Faculty and Students

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Galloway, NJ – Faculty and students from Stockton University will present workshops that can help seniors and people with physical challenges at the Ability Fair on **Friday, Sept. 18.**

The university is partnering with the Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation on the event in the Stockton Campus Center from noon to 5 p.m.

The Ability Fair will offer products from more than 60 vendors, from durable medical equipment to assistive devices. Many vendors will offer demonstrations, including the ARGO ReWalk exoskeleton, a battery-powered device that enables some spinal cord patients to walk again. Lucy, the World's Smallest Therapy Dog, will also be on hand to strut her stuff.

Dean Theresa Bartolotta of the School of Health Sciences will lead students from the Master's in Occupational Therapy program and faculty from Communication Disorders in presenting a session in assistive technology. Topics include adaptations for driving, low vision, computer access, and other devices to help control the environment. **(3:30 p.m., Meeting Room 5.)**

Some other sessions by Stockton faculty include:

- Kerri Sowers, assistant professor of Health Science, will introduce participants to the use of horses in therapy activities. **(1:15 p.m., Meeting Room 4/)**
- Amy Hadley, associate professor of Communication Disorders, Irene Sanders, assistant professor of Health Science and Erin Gallagher, a master's student in Communication Disorders, will explain the N.J. Hearing Aid project and how to determine if you are eligible for a hearing aid. **(2:15 p.m., Meeting Room 4.)** **-more-**
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- Debra Busacco, assistant professor of Health Science, will discuss rehabilitation strategies and resources to help with combined vision and hearing loss. **(2:15 p.m., Meeting Room 3.)**
- Mary Kientz, associate professor of Occupational Therapy, and M. Alysia Mastrangelo, professor of Physical Therapy, will talk about Get FIT, a Stockton nutrition and exercise program for individuals with disabilities. **(3:30 p.m., Meeting Room 1.)**
- Shelly Meyers, associate professor of Education, will explain the concept of universal design, including technology and other resources available to help with learning. **(3:30 p.m., Meeting Room 2.)**

The Stockton Center on Successful Aging and Stockton University Unified Sports will also participate.

“It’s wonderful to partner with the Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation, which is on Stockton’s campus. They are a long-term partner and we are pleased to bring cutting-edge information on rehabilitation to benefit members of our community,” said Bartolotta.

“We hope the Ability Fair becomes an annual event,” said Mary Joyce Perskie, vice president for Marketing and Business Development at Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation. “Stockton University has been a generous and willing partner in this endeavor, and together we think the Ability Fair can have quite an impact.”

The Ability Fair will have experts on hand to offer detailed information about how and where to purchase products, options and pricing.

In addition to vendors, there will be representatives from a wide variety of agencies, including the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey, Faces for Autism and Jewish Family Services.

Admission to the Ability Fair is free, refreshments will be available and free parking is available. To learn more or to register to attend, visit www.AbilityFair.com.

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