

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton Emergency Response Team Awarded Grant, Trailer for Use in Campus Emergencies

Only College in New Jersey to Be Recognized

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey was awarded a utility trailer valued at \$10,000 from the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management.

The State of New Jersey boasts one of the largest Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs in the nation with more than 450 programs and more than 15,000 citizen volunteers. The trailer was purchased with funds received from The Department of Homeland Security's NJ State Police Citizen Corp grant.

"This trailer and its contents represent excellent tools for use in almost any College emergency situation" stated Dennis Lepore, Stockton's health and safety officer who resides in Monmouth County. "We are the only college or university in the State to have received this equipment and grant," Lepore explained.

Usually, these trailers are awarded to county Offices of Emergency Management or town CERT teams. To be one of only nine recipients receiving a utility trailer this year and to be the first institution of higher education to ever be recognized by The New Jersey Citizen Corp State Council is a great honor for Stockton's CERT members and community, Lepore said.

According to Stockton Police Chief Glenn Miller, "the thanks for this award goes completely to Dennis Lepore who has made the Stockton Community Emergency Response Team a model for other campuses to follow."

Stockton's CERT group was first organized in 2005. Chief Glenn Miller approached Lepore and asked him to look into it, and the rest is history.

CERT members are a vital resource to the Stockton community. They are trained to assist Stockton's police or any other emergency responder when called upon. They are included in the College's Emergency Operation Plan where Lepore is part of the Incident Command Staff.

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Stockton's CERT members meet twice a year. One meeting is for a tabletop exercise and the other is for a full-blown, hands-on drill that is kept a secret until it happens. These drills help Stockton's CERT members work on their response to simulated emergencies along with working side by side with the responding emergency personnel. These exercises are held in concert with local, county, state and federal municipalities and agencies.

Stockton has one of the safest college campuses in the nation and has implemented a number of safety initiatives including an emergency text messaging system, "Osprey Cam" video surveillance (campus-wide), campus lock-down capabilities and numerous other measures.

"Having this trailer and generator at our disposal is just one more tool that makes Stockton a safer place for our students, faculty, staff and visitors," Lepore said. "It provides us with the opportunity to dispatch emergency equipment to locations anywhere on campus at a moment's notice."

In addition to his work securing the trailer and equipment for Stockton's use, Lepore regularly presents seminars to municipalities and organizations on how to successfully apply for similar funding. He is a member of the Atlantic County Fire Prevention Association and the Atlantic County Haz Mat Team. He is a NJ fire official, State fire safety instructor level 2 and a founding member of Stockton's Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society.

He represented Stockton College and the State of New Jersey at the FEMA sponsored Region II Community Preparedness Forum at the Greater New York American Red Cross Headquarters last year. Lepore said it was a great opportunity to discuss Stockton's preparedness and response capabilities and network with other Citizen Corp/Cert Directors from New York, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Virgin Islands, Rhode Island and Nassau County. He also met a host of FEMA regional administrators.

One of the biggest successes for Stockton's CERT program is its instructors. Lepore will argue that he has the finest and most knowledgeable when it comes to their particular subject matter and how they relate their own personal experiences to the program. "A large thank you goes to them and the County OEM staff," said Lepore. "We are presently in our ninth CERT Program, with more and more students signing up each time I run this wonderful program."

For more information on Stockton's CERT program, visit the College's website, www.stockton.edu, and search CERT in the main search box.

To download a high resolution image, [click here](#).

Photo Caption: Left to right, Major Dennis McNulty, Commanding Officer of the NJ Office of Emergency Management, Dennis Lepore, Stockton Health/Safety Officer, Stockton Deputy Chief Joe Mangiello, Stockton Chief of Police Glenn Miller and Howard Butt, NJ Citizen Corp State Coordinator receiving Stockton's CERT trailer at Division Headquarters in Trenton, NJ.

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