



Stockton Receives \$2.2 Million in Contracts for Child Welfare Education and Training Programs

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Galloway, NJ –The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey recently received three contracts totaling \$2.2 million from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) to provide social work education and professional training for current and future employees in New Jersey's public child welfare system.

The three programs funded by these contracts support the Child Welfare Education Institute (CWEI) at Stockton, part of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Support for these programs is part of a larger effort by the state to reform its public child welfare system after a series of tragic events and shocking revelations about the condition of the system in 2003. The reform effort has emphasized hiring staff with degrees in social work and providing additional professional training annually for DCP&P employees.

Toward that end, Stockton's Baccalaureate Child Welfare Education Program (BCWEP) produces individuals who have the undergraduate social work degree (BSW) and child welfare experience from their internships to be excellent child welfare caseworkers.

The BCWEP provides financial support for students working toward undergraduate degrees in Social Work at seven public and private colleges across the state. In the \$743,379 program, qualified seniors have their tuition and fees paid and receive a \$5500 stipend to offset expenses while they complete a year-long internship at the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P). Upon graduation, students begin employment as DCP&P caseworkers.

This year, six Stockton students are part of the program, along with 20 other students at the seven other public and private colleges that participate. Stockton is the lead institution and its

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partner schools are Centenary College, Georgian Court University, Monmouth University, Ramapo College, Rutgers University-Camden/New Brunswick, Rutgers University-Newark and Seton Hall University.

“While the program is a great opportunity for undergraduate social work students pursuing careers in public child welfare,” said Dawn Konrady, director of the Child Welfare Education Institute at Stockton, “the effects of the program are greater than that. It simultaneously benefits the state, the students, and the children and families they collectively serve.”

The same could be said for the Masters Child Welfare Education Program (MCWEP).

Stockton is also the lead institution of the MCWEP consortium, which includes Rutgers and Monmouth universities. The \$801,188 program covers the cost of tuition and fees for 38 current DCP&P supervisors seeking to advance their knowledge and professional skills by obtaining a Master of Social Work degree. After obtaining their degrees, participants are required to continue employment with DCP&P for at least one year per year of funding they received through the program.

Stockton has also received a third grant of \$675,000 for the operation of the New Jersey Child Welfare Training Partnership—Southern Region (NJCWTP-RSC). This third entity under the umbrella of CWEI is headquartered at Kramer Hall in Hammonton.

“The program develops and administers crucial child welfare and specialized trainings for over 1400 DCP&P employees in Cumberland, Cape May, Atlantic, Gloucester, Burlington, Camden and Salem counties,” Konrady said, “so the accessibility of Kramer Hall is a real advantage.” The arrangement may have economic benefits for Hammonton as well, as Main Street will likely see more foot traffic as people eat and shop during breaks in training, she added.

Konrady noted that the NJCWTP-RSC plans to offer 350 training days this year, some of which will also be offered at Stockton’s Carnegie Center in Atlantic City, the Main Campus in Galloway, and the Anne Azeez Hall in Woodbine.

Dr. Diane Falk, professor of Social Work and director of the Master of Social Work Program, is largely responsible for the three contracts being awarded to Stockton.

Overall, CWEI programs have brought \$13.7 million in contracts and grants to Stockton since the inception of the first program, BCWEP, in 2005.

For more information, visit www.stockton.edu/cwei

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