

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conference to be Held at Richard Stockton College May 11

Workshops, Networking Designed for High School Students with
Disabilities and Their Parents

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will present the Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conference for high school students and their parents on **Tuesday, May 11, 2010** at the Elizabeth B. Alton Auditorium, located on the College's Pomona campus.

The conference, both free and open to the public, will begin with a registration and breakfast from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. The conference kicks off at 9:00 a.m. with a welcome by Jimmy Connelly, Paralympics gold medalist and a Stockton student. Chad Juros, also a Stockton student, as well as a cancer survivor, international performer and one of *AC Weekly's* 2010 "Top 40 Under 40" recipients, will share his story and a magic performance. The conference will conclude with a lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Robert J. Ross, assistant director of Counseling and Health Services at Stockton, said, "Each conference features presentations from accomplished students and adults with disabilities who have demonstrated exemplary self-advocacy and leadership skills. Additionally, the conference program includes a variety of concurrent breakout sessions that provide conference attendees opportunities to gain insight into the transition planning process for a successful future."

The New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs, in collaboration with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, is sponsoring the conference. Participants will take part in workshops, many led by other students, dealing with topics such as goal setting, self-discovery, student self-advocacy, Individualized Education Program (IEP) development and assistance with preparing students with disabilities for post-secondary education opportunities.

Representatives of the Department of Education and other state agencies will be available to discuss issues or concerns of both parents and students related to the conference topics.

Ross said, "The Dare to Dream Student Leadership conferences have long been a positive and empowering experience for thousands of New Jersey's students."

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