

Office of Public Relations
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Stockton Launches Text Messaging Emergency Notification System for Students, Faculty and Staff

Cell phones to aid in distribution of emergency information

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Galloway Twp., NJ –The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has another tool available to aid in campus safety and security.

The College recently installed a new emergency text-messaging system, which enables a limited number of campus administrators to send urgent text messages to cell phones in the event of an emergency. Participation in the system is voluntary and individuals must “opt in” to the program. However, it is free to all students, faculty, staff and their designated family members or loved ones.

Stockton Chief of Police Glenn Miller, a member of Governor Corzine’s Campus Security Task Force, said the system is an effective tool to aid campus safety. “This system is a welcome addition to the other methods we will use to transmit emergency information to our community as quickly as possible,” Miller said, adding that the College also utilizes cable television, e-mail, postings on the College Web site, electronic message boards, telephone voice messaging to residence halls and office phones. There is also an electronic classroom notification system, which automatically turns on video projectors in classrooms and displays emergency notifications.

“While none of these methods is foolproof, collectively we have the ability to notify large numbers of people in a short amount of time,” Miller said.

“Stockton selected text messaging as a preferred medium of communication over voice messaging, because text can be more rapidly transmitted to a large number of recipients,” Miller said. Moreover, he said terse messages are less burdensome to public telephone networks, which can sometimes become overwhelmed by the high volume of voice calls that often ensue during emergencies.

“I would urge all of our community members and their loved ones to ‘opt in’ to the system, so that they have every opportunity available to be informed during emergencies,” Miller added.

Stockton community members may sign up for the service via the College home page at <http://www2.stockton.edu/>.

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