

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## New Educational Partnership Between Stockton and The Health Center at Galloway

First in a Series of Professional Seminars to be Held on June 2

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** The Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) and School of Graduate and Continuing Studies are teaming with The Health Center at Galloway to offer a series of seminars for professionals, para-professionals and other caregivers who work with older adults. The first seminar is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 2, 2010** from **7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** at The Health Center at Galloway, located at 66 West Jimmie Leeds Road, Galloway, NJ. Dates, times and topics of upcoming seminars are being arranged and will be posted on the SCOSA Web site.

The seminar, entitled **Depression in Older Adults: Helping Them Get the Help They Need**, will be presented by Dr. Christine Ferri, SCOSA Education chair and assistant professor of psychology.

According to the 2000 census, there are over 1.1 million New Jersey residents over age 65. Current research estimates that between 1-5% of older adults meet criteria for clinical depression and up to 15% of older adults have clinically significant depressive symptoms that impact their life (National Institute of Mental Health, 2009). As such, there are over 100,000 older adults in NJ who suffer from depression and tens of thousands who are not receiving treatment.

The stigma associated with mental illness is a barrier to treatment, especially among older adults. Appropriate education is the most effective way to address this challenge.

Dr. Ferri will discuss the Depression Screening Program that she directs, which is designed to address three barriers toward the treatment of depression in older adults: 1) lack of education about depression, 2) limited access to information about mental health providers who take Medicare patients and 3) challenges associated with depressed individuals' willingness to follow through with referrals.

This seminar is free of charge and offers 1 CE for social workers, marriage and family therapists and licensed professional counselors. Advanced registration is required by 5:00 p.m. on May 31. To register online go to [www.stockton.edu/scosa](http://www.stockton.edu/scosa). For more information, contact Sherry Ridgway at 609-748-9100 or SCOSA at 609-652-4311. # # #