

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Stockton Environmental Field Station to Host Global Interdependence Center Conference

Prestigious International Group to Visit and Study  
College's Role in Coastal and Marine Environmental Issues

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

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**Contact: Tim Kelly**  
**Office of Public Relations**  
**Galloway Township, NJ 08240**  
**Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu**  
**(609) 652-4950**

**PORT REPUBLIC, NJ-** The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, at its Nacote Creek Marine Science and Environmental Field Station, will host the third and final series of a prestigious global outreach organization's conference on energy, environmental, and economic issues related to the recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Global Interdependence Center (GIC), a Philadelphia-based non-profit organization which encourages global dialogue and free trade, will visit the Field Station on Friday, October 15, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the third in its series of Energy Conferences. At the second part of the conference series, held on September 22nd at the Federal Reserve Bank in Philadelphia, Stockton faculty members Drs. Mark Sullivan, and Jessie C. Jarvis, of its Marine Science Program, participated in a panel on environmental issues and challenges in the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of the BP oil spill disaster. The Stockton event will show how New Jersey's local shores, bays and inlets are in many ways analogous to those of the Gulf Coast.

Dean Dennis Weiss of Stockton's School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics has stated that "New Jersey's beaches are of major importance to its hospitality industry and economy, and its coastal waters are critical for the viability of the areas sport and commercial fishing industries." With regard to the theme of the GIC event, he also stated, "The region's sensitive wetlands vegetation are responsible for the environmental health of its ecosystems and habitats. If blindfolded and transported from a Gulf coast area to the Jersey shore one would be hard-

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pressed to distinguish, in many respects, which area they were located.”

GIC’s first event in the conference series was held in August in Baton Rouge, LA, and examined firsthand the spill’s impact on the regional environment and economy. The October 15 event at Stockton’s Field Station will not only focus on the similarities of the two environmentally-sensitive and similar regions, but also on the research conducted at Stockton’s facility, located on the banks of the Nacote Creek in Port Republic. Participants will receive a firsthand look at work being done at the Field Station to study and preserve these fragile areas including the very important beach and coastal dune studies conducted by Stockton’s Coastal Research Center.

Stockton, “New Jersey’s Green College,” has played a leading role in marine environmental and education issues both locally and nationwide. Originally located in Brigantine, the Field Station was moved to its present Nacote Creek facility in 1993. Research conducted at the station ranges from the study of beach and dune erosion to the coastal zone habitats of marine life in the area waters.

“Stockton is gratified to have been selected by GIC as the location for one of these important conferences,” said Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Harvey Kesselman. “This event provides an opportunity for the College to examine ways in which we can be part of the protection of our shorelines, and for the public to see firsthand what our faculty and students are doing to assist.”

GIC, in existence since 1976, encourages global dialogue and free trade by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas from varying perspectives. A main goal of the group is to reduce global conflict and improve worldwide standards of living.

Though open to the public, there is a fee to attend the October 15<sup>th</sup> GIC event. Registration will be limited to 45 people. For more information or to register, contact Jillian Fornito at [jfornito@interdependence.org](mailto:jfornito@interdependence.org) or visit [Global Interdependence Center](http://GlobalInterdependenceCenter.org).

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