

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton's State Campus Police Will Partner with the Galloway Twp. Police Department to Host an Operation Medicine Cabinet Collection Site

Event Set for Nov. 14 at the Sports Center

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- The State Campus Police at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in partnership with the Galloway Township Police Department will be hosting an OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET local collection site as part of the first statewide medicine disposal day in the nation.

The event will take place at the Sports Center on the College's Galloway Township campus between the hours of **10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 14, 2009**. This initiative, open to all residents, was organized to encourage local community residents to properly dispose of their unused, unwanted, and expired medicine.

This statewide effort, with over 250 participating New Jersey police departments, is being spearheaded by the Drug Enforcement Administration's New Jersey Division (DEA), the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, and the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (PDFNJ). Atlantic County residents looking for information on the abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs and local collection location information should visit www.operationmedicinecabinetnj.com.

Captain William Hambrecht of the Galloway Township Police Department, Joe Mangiello, Deputy Chief of Police at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and officers from both police agencies will join forces at the collection site on Stockton's campus. Stockton's campus police department is dedicated to developing community partnerships and proud to be involved in Operation Medicine Cabinet. Prescription drug misuse is a serious problem, and hopefully this initiative will serve as an educational forum for students, faculty, staff, and community members.

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Gerard P. McAleer, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the DEA stated, "We are very excited about the wide spread support and enthusiasm Operation Medicine Cabinet New Jersey is gaining in our coordinated efforts to bring public attention to this issue that is impacting our youth, our families, and our communities. Law enforcement is concerned with the alarming trend in the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs, with potential access to these drugs coming from the medicine cabinets of family and friends."

"This operation will reduce the availability of potent drugs that lead kids down a path to addiction," New Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram said. "We can't break a cycle of dependence if powerful prescription drugs are stashed in our own homes, tucked away in drawers and cabinets."

"With Operation Medicine Cabinet, we are calling on New Jersey residents to see their medicine cabinets through new eyes -- as an access point for potential misuse and abuse of over-the-counter and prescription medicine by young people," explained Angelo M. Valente, Executive Director of PDFNJ.

According to McAleer and Valente, the 2007 study by the National Study of Drug-Use and Health, 70% of people who abuse prescription pain relievers say they got them from friends or relatives and the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), reports that upwards of 9 million people use prescription medication for non-medical uses. They noted that the 2007 Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey (PDFNJ) Principals Survey found that half of the principals surveyed said that prescription drugs are abused more than twice that of ecstasy and cocaine by New Jersey middle school students.

"What is equally disturbing, is that 47% of New Jersey parents of middle school students said they know a little or just about nothing about prescription drug abuse, according to the 2009 PDFNJ Parents Tracking Survey," explained Valente.

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