

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Stockton College Responds to Need for Medical Technologists with New Dual Degree Program

Stockton Accepting Applications for Fall 2010 Semester

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

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** Residents of Atlantic and Cape May counties seeking careers in the healthcare field now have a new academic avenue to achieve their goals.

The Atlantic Cape May Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) Healthcare Workforce Committee – in cooperation with regional healthcare institutions, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and the University of Delaware (UD) – has formed a new dual degree education program that gives students the training they need to become medical technologists, also referred to as clinical laboratory technicians or medical laboratory technicians. The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) has accredited the program, which begins this fall.

The concept was fueled in part by an acute shortage of qualified technologists and by the increase in local residents searching for new healthcare career opportunities. In the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Wage and Vacancy Survey of U.S. Medical Laboratories Report of 2008, the United States Department of Health and Human Services reported that by 2010 there would be a need for 138,000 lab professionals with fewer than 50,000 being trained.

A career as a medical technologist requires a strong background in sciences, including biology and chemistry, as well as didactic and clinical education from an accredited medical technology program. A five-year curriculum for the dual degree program was developed following two years of collaboration among area hospitals and higher learning institutions.

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“Through the years the WIB’s Healthcare Committee has had an excellent collaborative relationship with all of its partners and has made a significant impact on providing training to the community for healthcare careers,” said Alan Beatty, vice president of human resources, Shore Memorial Hospital and co-chair of the WIB’s Healthcare Workforce Committee. “The partners recognized that there was a growing shortage of medical technologists and that there were no local schools that provided residents of the community with the venue to become a technologist. This program is just another example of the committee recognizing and addressing a specific need for the benefit of the community.”

Interested students can enroll at Stockton as declared biology majors with a medical technology track. After studying at Stockton for three years, the students transfer to UD for an additional two years, with studies focusing on the clinical aspects of medical technology.

“Stockton is pleased to be offering a degree program that helps our students, area healthcare providers and the region,” Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said. “It is gratifying to help meet an employment need in today’s challenging economy and for the need to be filled by Stockton graduates.”

Upon completion of the program at UD, students return to southern New Jersey to participate in clinical practicums at local hospitals - including Shore Memorial, AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC), and Cape Regional Medical Center - for real world experience. Students will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Stockton and a Bachelor of Science degree in medical technology from UD.

Tuition assistance for students interested in this program is provided through the New Jersey State Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD), which funds local WIB areas to operate One Stop Career Centers in each county.

“There are federal grants up to \$5,000, State of New Jersey grants up to \$4,000 and tuition waivers that residents may apply for and receive based on eligibility and availability to cover some of the cost of the Medical Technologist program,” said Rhonda Lowery, executive director of the Atlantic Cape May WIB.

Shore Memorial and ARMC will also be offering a limited number of \$7,000 fellowships.

The career options available to certified medical technologists include but are not limited to working in:

- Hospital laboratories
- Commercial laboratories
- In vitro fertilization laboratories
- Additional ambulatory care laboratory settings
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Instrument manufacturing industry

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“We’re pleased to participate in this program,” said Lillian Smith, director of recruitment, ARMC and co-chair of the WIB Healthcare Workforce Committee. “Students will gain valuable knowledge about and experience in the medical technician field. This is a tremendous opportunity for those seeking an exciting career with growth and career advancement opportunity.”

Stockton is accepting applications for the fall 2010 semester. Interested students can contact Karen P. York, Ph.D, assistant professor of biology, Stockton College, at 609-652-4449 or via email at [Karen.York@stockton.edu](mailto:Karen.York@stockton.edu).

For more information about fellowships offered by ARMC and Shore Memorial Hospital, call Lillian Smith, director of recruitment, ARMC, at 609-441-8086 or Cindy Miller, employment manager, Shore Memorial, at 609-653-3999.

#### **About the Atlantic Cape May Workforce Investment Board**

The Atlantic Cape May Workforce Investment Board (WIB) has established partnerships with local businesses, community organizations, educational institutions and government agencies to provide a seamless system of employment, training and social services to residents and employers in Atlantic and Cape May counties. Board members include representatives from county government and social services, area labor unions, AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Atlantic Cape Community College, Shore Memorial Hospital and others. For further information, or to become a member, call 609-485-0153, ext. 362 or visit [www.atlanticcapewib.info](http://www.atlanticcapewib.info).

**About the WIB Healthcare Workforce Committee:** The WIB Healthcare Workforce Committee is made up of private sector employees in the healthcare industry and is designed to plan, coordinate and implement strategies to address the labor shortage in approximately 25 different occupations within the field. Anyone interested in joining this committee can contact Stacy Forman, contract administrator 2 with the Atlantic Cape May WIB, at 609-485-0153, ext. 362.

**About One Stop Career Centers:** Funded by the New Jersey State Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD), One Stop Career Centers provide job search activities, job training opportunities, education classes, GED testing, public assistance and a variety of other services to help individuals improve their job-related skills to work in today’s competitive labor market. For more information, visit [www.learntrainwork.com](http://www.learntrainwork.com).

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