

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton Nursing Student Scott Tilton Helps to Devise Emergency Response Plans for Rail Stations

Student Misses Class for a Good Cause

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- Scott Tilton, a first-semester senior nursing student at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, had a good excuse to miss class on Thursday, October 8, 2009.

Currently, each county in the state of New Jersey is working to devise emergency response plans for rail/transit stations with an annual ridership of 500,000 people annually. Atlantic County has one station that qualifies for this rail planning initiative.

On Thursday, October 8 Tilton missed class to join nearly 80 representatives from local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies, County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) EMS coordinators, and state, federal, and private planning partners to attend an important group meeting at the Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC) in Trenton to address the need for better emergency response planning. The meeting's purpose was to educate EMS leaders on rail disasters and to instruct on how to perfect existing emergency response plans.

At the preparedness initiative meeting, participants were given the opportunity to network with other agencies and to listen and learn from speakers with personal experience handling past incidents across the globe. The speakers in attendance included: Geoff Long, Emergency Planning Advisor for the London Ambulance Service, who spoke on the 2005 coordinated attacks on the London Underground; Dr. Alfonso del Alamo, Director General of Emergency and Security for the City of Madrid, who spoke on the 2004 coordinated terror attacks on the Spanish rail system; representatives from the District of Columbia Fire & EMS Department discussed the 2009 train derailment in Washington, DC; and Peter Dworsky of The Monmouth Ocean Hospital Service Corporation (MONOC) spoke on the 1996 Secaucus train derailment. The speakers stressed the importance of preplanning and practice before disaster strikes.

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Tilton has been involved with emergency management in Atlantic County for the past year, and on July 1, 2009, he was appointed the position of Lead Emergency Medical Services Coordinator after interviewing and competing against other experienced candidates. Tilton is honored and thankful for this volunteer position, which has enabled him to interact with all EMS agencies in Atlantic County; actively respond to county and state incidents during disaster and casualty situations; and participate in high importance networking and instructional meetings.

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