



Stockton to Host 25th Annual Pinelands Short Course in March 2014

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

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Galloway, NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will host the 25th Annual Pinelands Short Course on March 8, 2014, a daylong educational event that explores the unique ecology, culture and history of New Jersey's Pinelands.

"Stockton is distinctively suited to host this event, as our campus is in the Pinelands National Reserve and our Environmental Studies program is one of the oldest and best in the nation," said President Herman Saatkamp. "The College also protects and manages 1,500 acres of forestlands under New Jersey's first comprehensive forest management plan on public land."

"We are pleased to partner with The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to present what promises to be an outstanding lineup and venue for the 25th Annual Pinelands Short Course," said Nancy Wittenberg, executive director of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, which has organized the event since its 1990 inception.

The Pinelands Short Course is open to the public and includes a variety of sessions on topics such as wildlife, plants, land-use/recreation and history and culture. Non-profit organizations and other groups may distribute information and sell Pinelands-themed books and artwork in an exhibition gallery.

New Jersey educators who attend can earn professional development credits through the state Department of Education.

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“It is an exciting program that offers an excellent opportunity for the residents of New Jersey to learn more about the Pinelands and the ecological balance they maintain,” said Robert McNeill, director of Stockton’s Continuing Studies program. “The day will be filled with many informative workshops presented by regional experts in their fields.”

The Pinelands Short Course will be held in Stockton’s Campus Center and in the new Unified Science Center, set to open this fall.

The 154,000-square-foot Campus Center, which opened in May 2011, was awarded the Gold Certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) by the U.S. Green Building Council. The building, which features an 8,000-square-foot event room, a theater, meeting rooms and a food court, uses 40 percent less water and 30 percent less energy than standard construction.

The Unified Science Center is a three-story, 66,000-square-foot building adjacent to the Campus Center. The Science Center includes 11 research labs, six multipurpose classrooms for natural science and math programs, computer classrooms, labs for Life Science, Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Analytical/Physical Chemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, and faculty and adjunct instructor offices. The building has been designed for energy efficiency in accordance with LEED guidelines.

Tickets are \$40, with discounts available for senior citizens and students. The schedule of presentations and the 2014 registration brochure will be available in December at: <http://www.nj.gov/pinelands>

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