

## THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

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# **Stockton's Southern Regional Institute Receives Grant Totaling \$2 Million For Math and Science Partnership with High-Needs Districts**

### **For Immediate Release**

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** – Stockton College's Southern Regional Institute/Educational Technology Training Center, already a national model of collaboration with area schools on teacher training and the infusion of technology into the classroom, is about to expand its horizons.

The SRI/ETTC has received a New Jersey Department of Education grant totaling \$2 million over the course of three years to help teachers improve the math and science standardized test scores of students who are currently struggling in those areas.

"This grant marks an entirely new direction for the SRI/ETTC, while it helps advance our core mission of improving educational opportunities throughout the region," said Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Chief Executive Officer of SRI/ETTC.

Stockton received a renewable New Jersey Department of Education Title II Math Science Partnership Grant for \$675,000 for three years to launch the initiative. The formation of the South Jersey Coastal Consortium (SJCC) was established to provide a framework for partnerships with schools through activities such as summer institutes, workshops, in-class mentoring, and infusion of technology into the classroom to enhance instruction and learning.

"The model so successfully developed and implemented by SRI/ETTC Director Patty Weeks for technology and teacher training is to be applied to this initiative, which focuses on math and science curriculum in high-need school districts," Kesselman said.

The grant enables the SJCC to advance its partnerships with the Federal Aviation Administration's William J. Hughes Technical Center, Salem County Community College, the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, and DuPont's "Partners in Science" program based in Wilmington, Delaware.

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## **Stockton Southern Regional Institute Grant/ page 2**

“Collaboration has always been at the heart of what we do, and the grant enables us to forge and strengthen these efforts to effect positive change in the critical areas of math and science,” Dr. Kesselman said. “Strong math and science skills will always be in demand and the development of those skills provides hope and opportunities for previously marginalized students.”

According to Director Weeks, the three-year cycle of the grant will guide motivated teachers through training and coursework to enrich their knowledge and understanding of math and science educational content and enhance their teaching skills. “Ultimately, the project will lead to improved student achievement,” Weeks added.

Weeks also noted “It has been our experience that our model has helped to improve test scores in individual school districts. As a result, our consortium has grown from a small group a few years ago to include every public school district in Atlantic County, as well as most districts and private schools throughout the region.”

In addition to using its partnerships and collaborative abilities, the SJCC will draw from the professional development successes of the SRI as well as the vast expertise of Stockton faculty in Teacher Education and the Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

“We have developed highly successful customized training programs both for schools and business applications,” stated Dr. Kesselman. “The practices we will implement in support of this grant will address the needs of the U.S. Department of Education’s focus on student achievement in math and science, as well as the objectives within the New Jersey Department of Education’s Title II Programs.”

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