

Office of Public Relations
Pomona, NJ 08240

Stay Safe and Graduate Program Receives Significant Boost in Grant Funding

***Award from the New Jersey Division of Highway and Traffic Safety Supports
Training for Students and Local Establishments***

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Twp., NJ – The Office of Alcohol/Drug Prevention at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has announced that it is the recipient of a grant from the New Jersey Division of Highway and Traffic Safety for funding of its Stay Safe and Graduate Program. This year's award amount of \$22,077 is more than double last year's grant. Among the project's objectives is the measurement of the effectiveness of programs funded by the Division of Highway and Traffic Safety to reduce drunken-driving rates among students.

The grant includes both on-campus and off-campus training programs at local taverns and restaurants. The training programs are provided by Patrick Shields, a New Jersey Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and Assistant Director of Stockton's Office of Alcohol/Drug Prevention. Three-hour training sessions are provided to bar personnel (bartenders, waiters/waitresses/managers and shuttle drivers) on how to serve alcohol responsibly to their college student customers to avoid drinking and driving.

Additionally, the grant sponsors alcohol education for Stockton students. Grant assistant Angelica Jablonski is offering a twice-a-week *Pat's Bars* program in the College gallery, which attracts many students who then participate in educational quizzes about alcohol and marijuana use. The program acknowledges the importance of other local drinking and driving programs including the HERO Campaign and UMADD, the university version of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The grant also provides for an academic-credit curriculum that includes fieldwork assignments for Stockton students to provide peer pressure resistance skills workshops to local elementary schools. In addition to teaching intervention skills, Shields trains students who then become Peer Educators who assist with workshops at local elementary and secondary schools. Through the Hope for Kids Program, for example, local elementary school children receive training on peer pressure resistance skills to avoid alcohol/drug situations.

The Stay Safe and Graduate Program is supported by the Stockton Wellness Program and the Division of Student Affairs. Please contact Patrick Shields at (609) 652-4987 for further information.

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