



## **Stockton Student to Receive NJ Wildlife Society Scholarship for Research, Conservation Work**

***For Immediate Release; with photo of Jillena Yeager***

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**Galloway Township, NJ** - Jillena Yeager, an Environment Science major at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, will receive the Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship, the New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society announced.

Yeager was selected for the award based on a combination of strong academic performance, experience in the field of wildlife conservation, and service to natural resources and the wildlife management and conservation profession, according to a statement from the N.J. Wildlife Society.

Yeager, a Hillsborough, NJ resident, is entering her senior year at Stockton. She has spent this summer and last as an intern at the Coastal Conservation Research Program at The Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, NJ. While there, she has participated in long-term conservation and research projects focused on diamondback terrapins, horseshoe crabs, and coastal ecology. She has conducted her own independent research on diamondback terrapins. She also has extensive internship experience with pine snakes.

In the winter of 2014, Yeager studied Stockton's wood frog population during the species' breeding season in mid- to late-February.

"I am very fortunate to attend The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey," said Yeager. "The college has provided me with many opportunities to conduct research specific to my interest in herpetology. I am grateful to have had these opportunities, and cannot thank the New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society enough for recognizing my involvement in research and conservation."

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Dr. George Zimmermann, professor and coordinator of the Environmental Studies Program at Stockton, said, "She is an outstanding student and I am grateful for the outside recognition of her skills."

The \$1000 Cookingham Scholarship is offered annually to a qualified undergraduate student in the wildlife, fisheries or biological sciences field. This scholarship is made possible by an endowment from the late Russell A. Cookingham, former director of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is intended to assist qualified students in the wildlife/fisheries or conservation education/communication field with college and related expenses, and to lend a hand to aspiring wildlife professionals. Students must reside permanently in New Jersey to be considered. New Jersey residents attending school out-of-state are eligible.

The New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society, a chapter of The Wildlife Society, represents professional wildlife managers employed by state, federal and other government agencies, nonprofits, academic institutions, and private companies that address wildlife issues.

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