



Stockton College Alumna Named Atlantic County Teacher of the Year

Galloway 3rd Grade Teacher Terry Dougherty Recognized for Commitment

For Immediate Release; link to photo attached

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Galloway Township, NJ- Terry Dougherty, a 3rd grade teacher at Roland Rogers Elementary School in Galloway and a graduate of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, has been named Atlantic County Teacher of the Year by Gov. Chris Christie's Administration.

Dougherty, who was the winner of the 2011 Great American Teach-Off, established a free military tutoring service, held at Stockton this summer, called "They Are Heroes Too." The program is the subject of Classroom Close-up, an NJTV show to be shown later this year.

Education standards from state to state differ, and military children who change schools frequently develop gaps in their learning. Dougherty's tutoring service corrects this situation free of charge.

Tutors are teachers from Atlantic County school districts and college students who are volunteering their time.

As a mother, teacher and Coast Guard wife, Dougherty understands the struggles that children from military families face when it comes to education, and she has the skills and expertise to help. As a Stockton graduate, she said she knew that she could get help to expand her program to reach more students.

"The program started out of my house. As a teacher, I saw the children on my street and knew they needed help," explained Dougherty.

From her home, the program expanded to the Galloway Public Library, but word traveled faster than Dougherty could keep pace with—that's when she decided to seek help from Stockton.

"I knew that Stockton College had a great reputation for community service," she said.

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Dougherty and Daniel Tome, assistant director of Service Learning, quickly developed a mutually beneficial partnership.

During the summer months, the college provides space and volunteers who serve as tutors, which allows the program to reach more students in need. "If it weren't for Stockton, this program wouldn't be happening," said Dougherty.

"There are a number of different students who participate including teacher candidates who benefit tremendously. Students who are going to be teachers have the upfront opportunity to diagnose learners' needs," explained Dr. Claudine Keenan, dean of the School of Education.

"The tutors are getting hands-on experience and connecting what they are learning in the classroom," Tome added.

Dougherty recently enrolled as a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Education (MAED), a program within Stockton's School of Education. She is also one of Stockton's Professional Achievement Award recipients this year.

Earlier this month, a film crew from Classroom Close-up, NJ, a co-production of the New Jersey Education Association and NJTV, came to Stockton to capture footage and interviews that show how Dougherty is helping students from military families. The special, titled "Schools Supporting Soldiers' Kids," will air on NJTV on Dec. 15 and Dec. 21, 2013 and Jan. 19 and Jan. 25, 2014.

For more information on New Jersey's Teacher of the Year awards and a photo of Dougherty: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2013/0828toy.htm>.

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