

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Fostering a Good Death: Encouraging an Informed Discussion

Subject of Upcoming Stockton Conference

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- Issues of quality of life and cost of end-of-life care continue to make front page news in the wake of last year's release of the updated *Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care*. According to the *Atlas*, NJ hospitals provide dying patients the most extensive and intensive care in the nation – yet this care may not lead to improved quality of life. A discussion of the multiple reasons for these perplexing findings will be the focus of a daylong conference entitled "Fostering A Good Death: Encouraging Informed Discussion." The conference will be held at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Galloway Twp. campus on **Tuesday, May 12, 2009 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

New Jersey Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, Heather Howard, recently concluded that "We are paying more for health care and we are not getting better results. That is of great concern to everyone." (*Star Ledger*, 04/07/08). One reason for excessive and/or inappropriate care is that providers are often not trained in the skills of discussing these difficult issues with individuals and families, and many families do not discuss these issues until an emergency arises.

Dr. Anthony Mazzaelli, MD, MD, MBE, Medical Director for the Department of Emergency Medicine, Cooper University Hospital will provide the keynote address. Alexi A. Wright, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute as well as other prominent educators, physicians, lawyers, and theologians will also address various mechanisms of change. Experts from the University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth College, Stockton College, Cooper Medical Systems, the Medical Society of New Jersey and others will facilitate dialogue and speak on topics such as medical and legal issues and concerns, physicians' view of the end-of-life discussion, the role of hospice, and religious and spiritual beliefs.

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The conference is co-sponsored by the Stockton College Division of Continuing Studies for Health Sciences & Human Services, Southern Jersey Ethics Alliance, the Stockton Center on Successful Aging, the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education, and AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center. Complete conference description and registration information are available online at: www.stockton.edu/hshs, or by calling 609-652-4227. For more information about the conference, please contact Cynthia B. Sosnowski, Executive Director of Continuing Studies for Health Sciences & Human Services at Cynthia.Sosnowski@Stockton.edu or by calling 609-652-4227.

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