



Stockton Awarded \$1M., 3-Year State Grant for K-12 Math Teachers' Professional Development

10 Districts in Cape May, Cumberland Counties to Participate

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Galloway, NJ – Math teachers in Cape May and Cumberland counties will be getting professional development from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey via a three-year, \$1 million grant from the state Department of Education.

Faculty from Stockton's School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NAMS) and its School of Education, as well as staff from the Southern Regional Institute and Educational Technology Training Center (SRI&ETTC) will work with 60 teachers from 10 school districts to support successful implementation of the new Common Core State Standards in Mathematics. The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

The new standards have been adopted by 46 states, including New Jersey. The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare the nation's children for college and the workforce.

The project titled the Stockton Coastal Collaborative is expected to receive nearly \$1 million in funding over the three years of the Math-Science Partnership.

"The MSP grant recognizes the value of many ongoing relationships Stockton has built

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with our K-12 partners and the New Jersey Department of Education to strengthen learning and teaching,” said Dean Claudine Keenan of Stockton’s School of Education. “We are very proud of the work done thus far, and look forward to how much more we can accomplish with this grant support.”

“The School of Natural Sciences has been increasing its mathematics requirements for entrance into specific areas of study as well as introductory course offerings,” said Dean Dennis Weiss of NAMS. “We consider mathematics to be one of the principal tools of science in the 21st century. The MSP grant just adds to the support NAMS faculty have been providing regional teachers.”

“It is our goal that ultimately, K-12 teachers will be able to fully prepare their students for entry into Stockton College and/or our Dual Credit high school program,” Dean Weiss added.

Participating school districts include Wildwood Public Schools, a K-12 district whose Elementary and Middle Schools are both Title I and Focus Schools, Woodbine School District, a K-8 Title I School, Middle Township School District (K-12) and Commercial Township School District, a K-8 Title I District. Cumberland Regional High School and each of its K-8 sending districts including Hopewell Crest, Stow Creek, Greenwich, Deerfield (a Focus District), and Fairfield Township (a Focus District) will also participate.

A Title 1 school is a school that receives federal funding from the Department of Education because a majority of the students are from low-income backgrounds. A Focus school is one that has room for improvements that are specific to the school, such as a low graduation rate or large gaps in proficiency among students at the school.

“The program will guide participating teachers through an exploration of topics that will increase their individual and collective abilities to improve student achievement,” according to a statement by Patricia Weeks, director of the SRI&ETTC in the college’s School of Education who will serve as co-director of the project with Dr. Chia-Lin Wu, associate professor of Mathematics, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Dr. Kimberly Lebak, director of Stockton’s Master’s Program in Education, has been instrumental in the development of the project and will organize the delivery of graduate coursework for participating K-12 teachers, Weeks noted.

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