

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## **Stockton Offers Free Depression Screening and Information Sessions for Older Adults throughout Atlantic and Cape May Counties**

*Dr. Christine Ferri receives Horizon Foundation for NJ Grant to address depression diagnosis and treatment among older adults.*

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Contact: Tim Kelly  
Office of Public Relations  
Galloway Township, NJ 08240  
Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu  
(609) 652-4950**

**Galloway Township, NJ-** A series of community workshops directed by Stockton College's Dr. Christine Ferri, Associate Professor of Psychology and Education Chair for the Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) will address depression among older adults in the community. The Depression Screening program is made possible by a grant from The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey's mission is to promote health, well being, and quality of life in New Jersey's communities.

The program is designed to address three barriers toward the treatment of depression in older adults: lack of knowledge about depression, limited access to information about mental health providers who accept Medicare and challenges associated with depressed individuals' willingness to follow through with referrals.

"The Depression Screening Program will address these barriers by presenting events in the community that target high-risk groups," Ferri said. The events include an information session and depression screening. Ferri will also distribute a list of mental health providers who accept Medicare. Professor Ferri and her research team will also make follow-up phone calls to determine if participants made an appointment and provide further encouragement to seek treatment.

The following workshop has been scheduled in Absecon with others to be announced soon, elsewhere in the region. All area older adults are invited to attend the free session. July 21, 2011 – 10:30am – Absecon Senior Center – United Methodist Church Great Hall, 1 Pitney Rd., Absecon, 609-645-0013.

-More-

SCOSA Workshop in Absecon/ page 2

For more information contact Dr. Christine Ferri at Stockton Campus - H-255, 609-626-6040, [Christine.Ferri@stockton.edu](mailto:Christine.Ferri@stockton.edu). Visit the SCOSA website at [www.stockton.edu/scosa](http://www.stockton.edu/scosa) for a schedule of events and updates.

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