

Stockton and Greater Egg Harbor Regional High Schools Partner for Education Workshops

Science and Math Teachers from Absegami, Cedar Creek and Oakcrest
Instructed by Stockton Faculty

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Galloway Township, NJ- With the goal of having a positive impact on science and math curricula and student learning, faculty members in math and science from the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School district recently attended professional development workshops at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

As part of a collaborative effort between the College and the school district, participating teachers were able to maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge and skills. The district, which includes Absegami, Cedar Creek and Oakcrest High Schools, sent 19 teachers to Stockton's Marine Science and Environmental Field Station on the Nacote Creek in Port Republic.

A full day of field and lab sessions was organized by Field Station Manager Steve Evert and his staff. Stockton Professors Tara Luke (Biology), Mark Sullivan (Marine Science), and Jessie Jarvis (Marine Science) also instructed the teachers. This activity enables the participants to help students prepare for advanced studies in marine and environmental sciences. This was followed by a workshop day at Stockton that emphasized vertebrates, evolution, fossils and plants. The sessions were conducted by Drs. Margaret Lewis and Michael Lague, associate professors of biology.

"These workshops are an illustration of the outstanding collaborative spirit of the Greater Egg Harbor Regional District and Stockton," Stockton Provost Dr. Harvey Kesselman said. "These workshops help to enable teachers to better prepare their students for college."

Lisa Martinelli, a science teacher at Cedar Creek summed up the program: "Both days were a fantastic experience. The day at Nacote Creek will be a real asset to the Environmental

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Science magnet program. The day gave us an opportunity to use and understand cutting edge field equipment. We were able to see what current research in environmental science is being conducted in our own backyard; and, most importantly, we were able to discuss these research topics and methodologies with our local leading scientists," she said.

"Our day at Stockton with Margaret Lewis was also a great source of information," Martinelli added. "Her extensive research on human evolution is changing how evolution is taught. This is a great example of why we need to keep current on scientific advances. New discoveries and new ways of looking at old information are changing the way we think human evolution occurred. I can't wait to incorporate what we learned into our high school curriculum."

The Mathematics Summer Workshops offered professional development content in the areas of Calculus, Geometry and Algebra. A total of 25 math teachers from Greater Egg Harbor Regional participated in sessions

These were led by Dr. Pam Kosick (Algebra), Dr. Chin-Lin Wu, Mathematics Program Coordinator (Calculus), and Dr. Brad Forrest (Geometry).

Dr. Steven Ciccariello, Greater Egg Harbor Regional superintendent stated "Everyone can continue learning. Improvement in goals and self can only lead to healthier teachers, better equipped to handle the daily challenges of teaching and the challenges of the 21st century, preparing students to become productive members of society."

Stockton's Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Dr. Dennis Weiss commented "that this summer's Professional Development sessions with faculty from Greater Egg Harbor Regional were the first step to developing relationships with our educational partner in the region."

In addition, Weiss noted the District and Stockton will initiate a program this coming academic

