

Richard Stockton College Students to Work with The Women's Center During Spring Break

Students to Become Advocates for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

For Immediate Release

Friday, February 22, 2013

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Galloway Township, **NJ-** Many students at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey are taking the opportunity to work with The Women's Center in Atlantic County over spring break. They will learn to be advocates for sexual assault and domestic violence.

The Wellness Center at Stockton has planned an alternative spring break program for students that will offer a 40-hour sexual assault and domestic violence advocacy training session led by representatives from The Women's Center. Once trained, students will be supervised by The Women's Center to respond to sexual assault and dating violence crisis situations on campus.

Students who complete the program will become certified advocates who are trained to provide crisis and options counseling, support victims through potential legal or campus hearing board proceedings and to connect those in need to longer term counseling offered by the Stockton Wellness Center.

"The Women's Center will extend their reach by training Stockton students, who will then carry the Center's mission forward through their advocacy efforts on campus. The training is a service learning opportunity for students that celebrates Women's History Month," said Erin O'Hanlon, coordinator of community initiatives at The Women's Center.

The Women's Center, established in 1975 and based in Linwood, New Jersey, is dedicated to providing services to women including a violence intervention program, a child care network and job training.

Over the past two decades, Stockton has worked with The Women's Center on various initiatives, including consultation on the College's sexual assault policy listed in the student handbook and support with Healthy Relationships Awareness Day and the national Clothesline Project where students decorate shirts for an art installation educating the community on domestic violence.