

Richard Stockton College establishes center for public safety, security

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GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP — Richard Stockton College has established a Center for Public Safety and Security that will work with law enforcement and other security agencies to provide training targeted at supervisory and management level personnel.

Cynthia Sosnowski, associate dean at Stockton's School of Graduate and Continuing Studies, said the center was developed based on needs expressed by public safety agencies. The center will partner with the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, or NJSACOP, and The Rodgers Group LLC, which was awarded a \$75,000 contract to manage and identify clients, business development and grant opportunities.

The Rodgers Group principal, Frank Rodgers, retired deputy superintendent with the New Jersey State Police, will serve as director of the center. Rodgers Group team members Vance Mattis, a retired lieutenant with the State Police, and Thomas Soucek, retired director of New Jersey's Fusion Center Regional Operations Intelligence Center, will serve as assistant directors. John White, a psychology professor at Stockton who specializes in forensic psychology, will be a fellow at the center.

The center has four workshops planned for early 2012, including Cyber Crime and Evidence on Feb. 28, the New Jersey Internal Affairs Investigation Program on March 6-7, Expert Testimony in Criminal Prosecutions on March 14, and the NJSACOP Front Line Supervision Program over four days in March.

Sosnowski said several organizations in the security field asked the college to consider offering training programs similar to those at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. She said the availability of Seaview resort to house participants is also a draw. An advisory board has been formed and input received from various state groups, including prosecutors, sheriffs, police, Homeland Security, emergency management, corrections and the private security and insurance industries.

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