



# Gloucester County College

LEARNING FOR REAL LIFE

**Press Release #** 058  
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**Title** GCC Partners with Drexel University  
CIVIL ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
ARTICULATION AGREEMENT SIGNED

Deptford Twp. –A regional construction boom and a new partnership with Drexel University now offers Gloucester County College students pursuing a career in Civil Engineering Technology or Construction Management the right infrastructure to a successful career.

An articulation agreement signed August 23, 2005 between GCC and Drexel University assures students who have earned an associates degree in Civil Engineering Technology at the community college that all course credits will be carried over to the four-year institution and into the Construction Management major. Students applying to Drexel within 10 years of completing the agreed upon course requirements at GCC with a grade of “C” or better will be able to continue their education towards a bachelor’s degree as juniors in the University’s Construction Management Program.

“Based upon the course descriptions, GCC and Drexel match up very well,” said Joseph Nace, GCC Dean of Business and Technology. “We hope that the articulation agreement with Drexel University will help GCC to recruit new civil engineering technology and other students interested in construction management for our associate degree program.”

“Gloucester County College’s articulation agreement with Drexel gives our students the means to secure an associates degree at an affordable cost and later further their education at a prominent

university,” stated College President William F. Anderson. “After acquiring a solid education at GCC, students will be one step closer to a successful career in civil engineering or construction management. This partnership brings the transfer process up front and makes educational goals readily accessible.”

#### Drexel Articulation Agreement – Add One

According to Ali A. Houshmand, Ph.D., Dean of the Goodwin College of Professional Studies, Drexel’s host college for the Construction Management program, “At Drexel University our long established evening program in construction management is now strengthened by the full time day program which is in response to the industry shift toward more degreed professionals. Students also benefit from excellent industry connections which are reflected by unique class trips that extend classroom learning as well as the well-respected cooperative education program at Drexel, both of which expose students to real life in-the-field experiences and situations that cannot be fully understood in the classroom alone. This approach to construction education is a powerful strategy for preparing students for leadership and careers in the construction industry.”

“This region is experiencing a revitalization of cities, redevelopment of waterfronts as well as industries expanding to meet consumer demands,” stated Youth Transition to Work (YTTW) Project Director Randee Davidson, one of the key staff involved in bringing the agreement between the two institutions to fruition. “It is very exciting that Drexel University has partnered with GCC to fill the job demands of this area. Without qualified construction management professionals and engineers, the needs of this region over the next 12 to 15 years can not be achieved. Students will receive a bachelor’s degree from Drexel University in Construction Management and realize tremendous savings by starting their education at GCC.”

In addition to traditional GCC students earning an associates degree in Civil Engineering Technology, those enrolled in the YTTW program are also eligible to participate in the partnership agreement. YTTW, a state-funded grant that promotes work-based learning and continuing education, offers students in the construction trades on-the-job apprenticeship opportunities. YTTW students are able to earn an associates degree and gain job experience all while bringing home a paycheck.

“The goal of the YTTW grant is to apprentice students from high school, prepare them to work in highly specialized paid jobs and receive classroom training,” noted Davidson. “This articulation partnership gives students an opportunity to experience the school/apprenticeship/college linkages for a lucrative career choice.”

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According to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the median salary range for construction management professionals, estimators, project managers, is \$55,000 and civil engineers is \$65,700, with an average hourly wage of \$31.60. While construction has traditionally been a very conservative industry, the increasing rate of technological development and competition in the industry serves to accelerate the development of new construction methods, equipment, materials, and management techniques. As a result of these forces, there is an increasing need for innovative and professionally competent construction professionals. Modern civil engineering has advanced from the planning and designing of facilities such as dams, bridges, buildings and transportation setups to also include a variety of other areas comprised of highway and traffic control, the infrastructure of cities, mass transportation systems, utilities networks, water resources exploration and environmental protection management.

GCC's 270-acre campus is located on Tanyard Road in Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55. Drexel University's Goodwin College is located at 3001 Market Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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