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COUNTY COLLEGE

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GCC'S NEW PROGRAM TO WHET APPETITE FOR FOOD SCIENCE STUDIES

Deptford Twp. - A U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant for \$48,893 is helping to set the table for a new two-year associate degree program in food science at Gloucester County College, the first of its kind in the state.

The GCC food science program, tentatively to be unveiled in the fall of 2007, is part of a partnership grant with Rutgers University. Designed to encourage more young Americans to pursue and complete a four-year degree in the food science field, the program will focus on educating students about the academic discipline and available career opportunities. An articulation agreement between the two institutions will make transferring from GCC to Rutgers seamless for a bachelor's degree program.

With more than 620 food production facilities within a 50-mile radius of GCC, there continues to be a growing demand for qualified employees in New Jersey's food science, food technology, and food production occupations. In the Mid-Atlantic region, it is a \$280 billion enterprise. The USDA grant is part of an initiative to entice college students, as well as K-12 science teachers, to explore food science as an educational option. This summer, Rutgers University will offer a three-day workshop for local middle- and high-school science teachers on the GCC campus to introduce them to the content of the food science program.

GCC has also formed an advisory committee to assist in the development of the program, collaborating with the University of Delaware, Cornell University, Salem Community College, and Rutgers University. The group is seeking \$2 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to market the food science program and to educate middle school and high school students.

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Food Science Studies – Add One

“The mission of GCC is to support the economic development of the community. Our new food science program will generate additional career employment opportunities for students and offer advancement to four-year institutions,” stated College President William F. Anderson. “GCC is located in a county that has consistently ranked among the top 28 for job growth nationwide since 2003 and over the past several years has placed in the top ten fastest growing counties in the country,” noted Anderson, a former administrator at Cornell University’s Institute of Food Science. “The USDA grant will help meet the needs of the college and the community.”

Nationally, the American food industry employs about 14 million individuals and provides an additional 4 million jobs in related industries. According to the U. S. Department of Labor, the median salary in 2002 for agricultural and food scientists was \$48,670.

GCC’s 250-acre campus is located on Tanyard Road in Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55. This year, the College is celebrating 40 years of student success since its founding in 1966. During the past four decades, GCC has grown to become a valuable asset to the Gloucester County community providing quality academic programs, cultural enrichment, and professional development.