



Gloucester County College

LEARNING FOR REAL LIFE

Press Release # 50
Date 12-12-06

Title GCC AWARDED \$2 MILLION FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE GRANT

Deptford Twp. – A three-year \$2 million Community-Based Job Training (CBJT) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment, and Training Administration has been awarded to Gloucester County College and partner in educational ventures, Salem Community College.

GCC President William F. Anderson, a veteran administrator with 21 years in the field of food science at Cornell University, lead the establishment of the consortium of college, public schools, businesses and agencies that applied for and received the funding.

The grant will fund the Food Industry Technology and Science (FITS)—NJ Careers project, an initiative that addresses the entire range of occupations associated with food science, manufacturing, and production, from jobs at the adult literacy level to those requiring a baccalaureate degree. At Gloucester County College, a food science associate degree and credit certification program— the first of its kind in the state—will be unveiled in the fall of 2007, with Salem Community College implementing a similar program in food process technology. GCC recently received a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant for \$48,893 to assist in the development of a food science major.

“This is great news and we look forward to working with GCC,” stated Rutgers University Chair and Director of Food Science

Dr. Jozef L. Kokini.

“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,” said 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. This grant will help meet the needs of the college and the community.”

CBJT grants, designed to aid in the schooling of new and currently employed workers in high-growth and in-demand industries, provide funds to community colleges to train qualified personnel to meet the needs of the region. On December 11, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded \$125 million to 72 community college partnerships under the President’s Community-Based Job Training Grants.

“Salem Community College is proud of its partnership with Gloucester County College,” said SCC President Peter B. Contini. “The CBJT grant provides an exciting opportunity to expand the process technology program into the food and pharmaceutical industries. We truly appreciate the leadership that GCC has provided in the development of the grant.”

The Food Industry Technology and Science Careers for New Jersey partnership is a combination of area colleges, businesses, agencies, and public schools working together to provide workforce support and expand the local economy through education. With more than 600 food production facilities within a 50-mile radius of GCC and SCC, there continues to be a growing demand for qualified employees in New Jersey’s food science, food technology, and food production occupations. The FITS—NJ Career program will focus on educating students about the academic discipline and available career

opportunities to encourage more young Americans to pursue and complete a four-year degree in the food science field.

“Average weekly wages are up 9.1% in Gloucester County and much of that increase can be attributed to job training programs,” said Gloucester County Freeholder Director Stephen M. Sweeney. “GCC has very proactive job training programs and works closely with our area employers to provide a skilled workforce which contributes to our successful economy here.”

For more information contact:

Gina Redrow

Phone: (856)415-2230

Email: gredrow@gccnj.edu

Andrea Stanton

Phone: (856)415-2229

Email: astanton@gccnj.edu