



Stockton Professor and Students Offering Depression Screening Program Free of Charge to Area Older Adults

Depression Screening Workshops and Information Sessions Scheduled for September in Atlantic and Cape May Counties

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- Dr. Christine Ferri, an assistant professor of psychology at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, received a grant from the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey to provide depression screening workshops for older adults.

With support from a grant from the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Dr. Christine Ferri and three of her students recently offered depression screenings throughout Atlantic County. Several more events are planned for this month and include sessions in Cape May County.

The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey's mission is to promote health, well-being and quality of life in New Jersey's communities. Dr. Ferri's Depression Screening Program offers older adults information about depression, provides individual screenings for interested participants and provides referrals to mental health providers who accept Medicare health insurance.

In each presentation, Dr. Ferri will present comprehensive facts about depression and will address three barriers toward the treatment of depression in older adults: 1) lack of education about depression, 2) limited access to information about mental health providers who take Medicare patients and 3) challenges associated with depressed individuals' willingness to follow through with referrals.

The Depression Screening Program will address these barriers by organizing events in the community that include an information session, depression screening and a list of mental health providers who treat Medicare patients. Dr. Ferri and her students will also make follow-up phone calls to determine if participants made an appointment, with support and encouragement to get professional help.

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Four workshops were presented in July and the following are scheduled for September:

- **Wednesday, September 15, 2010** at 10:30 a.m. - Upper Township Senior Center, 1369