

Grant Helps Adult Learners Reenroll by Sweeping Away Barriers

R.E.A.L. Program at Stockton Funded by Federal College Access Challenge Grant

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Galloway Township, NJ- A new grant-funded program at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is reenrolling adult learners by lifting the financial and academic barriers that have prevented students from obtaining degrees.

The R.E.A.L. program, which stands for ReEnrolling Adult Learners, was established at Stockton College with funds from a one-year, \$65,000 grant. The grant was awarded to the College by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education through the Disengaged Adults Returning to College (DARC) Grant program. This July the renewal process will begin.

Those who are eligible for the program must be age 20 or older, have been out of school for between one and 10 years, have at least a 2.0 GPA and at least 64 credits from any New Jersey institution.

Peter Hagen, director of the Center for Academic Advising and Planning, said, "Degree completion and alleviating student debt are at the forefront of our latest initiative. The R.E.A.L. program is our response to the call by President Obama to help students leave college with degrees, which puts them in a better position to pay off their student loans."

The program works by identifying qualified students and then sweeping away academic and financial limitations that have kept them from graduating. This semester 50 students have reenrolled in courses at Stockton and are now receiving benefits from the program.

New online courses and online versions of existing courses are being created to make coursework more accessible to students. A new version of the Liberal Studies major has been developed to accommodate students wishing to customize a major to graduate as soon as possible.

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Exceptions on a case-by-