



NEWS

PR 29 – October 8, 2009

NEW GCC CRIMINAL JUSTICE/ LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deptford Twp – Gloucester County College joined forces with three county departments on Thursday, October 1, offering students enrolled in the College's criminal justice/ law enforcement programs first-hand experience in their field of study.

Effective January 2010, students will have the opportunity to receive on-the-job training through internship agreements with the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office, the Department of Emergency Response and the Prosecutor's Office. Under the new partnerships, students will earn three credits per job placement. Each of the departments is committed to protecting the health and public safety of citizens however, all vary in responsibility.

"Forming this new alliance between Gloucester County College and the three county departments will support the educational needs of the College's students while also providing assistance to our partners," said GCC Dean of Public Safety and Security Fred Madden. "GCC's criminal justice and law enforcement students will benefit from these practical learning experiences."

All students participating in the GCC internships will be required to submit to a confidential criminal history background check before acceptance into the programs. While the positions are unpaid in monetary terms, the knowledge gained from working closely alongside seasoned professionals is invaluable.

"Having college students, who are interested in pursuing careers in criminal justice and law enforcement, work within their actual field of study is advantageous, in terms of education, experience and productivity" said Gloucester County Freeholder Director Stephen M. Sweeney. "It's a win-win situation for all involved."

“These internships are a way for students to get a good cross-section of experience,” added Freeholder Jean DuBois, liaison for the Department of Health and Public Safety. “We are in need of emergency response workers and internships are a way to expose students to the many different divisions.”

At the Sheriff’s Office, students will gain insight into the workings of the department that oversees the countywide criminal and civil court security, transportation of adult and juvenile remands, executions of judgments and foreclosure sales of property. The Department of Emergency Response, which includes the Fire Marshall’s Office, the Office of Emergency Management, the County Emergency Medical Services, the County Office of 9-1-1, the County Hazardous Material Response Team and countywide dispatch functions for FIRE-EMS- and Police communications, will expose interns to a selection of career options. Those interested in the law field will find working at the Prosecutor’s Office—the county’s centralized authority for handling all criminal and internal investigations and policy development addressing law-enforcement procedures—to be valuable job experience.

“This new affiliation between the college and the county offers an exciting opportunity for our students,” said Gloucester County College President Russell A. Davis. “It’s a great advantage from both an educational standpoint and as a future networking tool.”

For more information on the criminal justice/ law enforcement internships, call (856) 415-2266.

Gloucester County College is located on a 250-acre campus on Tanyard Road, Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55.