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● NEWS RELEASE ●
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#36

September 24, 2009

RVCC AWARDED \$1.7 MILLION CAREER EDUCATION GRANT

Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) in Branchburg has been awarded a \$1.7 million federal grant to support development and training of career pathways for students and educators in seven different occupational clusters.

The four-year, New Jersey Department of Education-sponsored Career Technical Education Partnership (CTEP) grant—one of the largest grants in the College's history—will enhance teaching and student leadership in the following career areas: Architecture & Construction; Arts, A/V Technology & Communications; Government & Public Administration; Hospitality & Tourism; Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security; Manufacturing; and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics.

"The CTEP grant will enable the College to train students and educators in various career areas, as well as strengthen our ties to the business community. In doing so, we can help prepare students for the workforce challenges of the future," says RVCC President Dr. Casey Crabill.

As part of this program, through a \$140,000 State-funded subgrant to the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High Schools (SCVTHS), RVCC will provide leadership for the statewide administration of SkillsUSA and the expansion of Career Technical Student Organizations at high schools and colleges. The subgrant will be renewed each year during the four-year grant. SkillsUSA, a non-profit organization, is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force.

In addition to the SCVTHS component, some of the initiatives the grant will support include:

- Establishing and convening six advisory committees composed of representatives from statewide trade, labor and professional organizations, as well as higher education and secondary education, focusing on seven career clusters.
- Developing, maintaining and continually expanding an organized web-based toolkit containing technical skill assessments, related industry recognized certifications and credentials for career clusters and pathways.
- Researching and developing seven model programs of study addressing at least one pathway in high-wage, high-skill, or high-demand occupations within each career cluster.
- Disseminating model program information to school districts and postsecondary institutions.

- Providing professional development programs to secondary educators, administrators and college faculty.
- Sponsoring 30 postsecondary students to compete in the statewide Tech Prep Showcase.
- Developing graduate-level course outlines for education professionals in CTE leadership, focusing on methods to align secondary and postsecondary programs to create CTE pathways.

For additional information about the CTEP grant, contact Nancy Jordan, dean of Academic Program Development and Partnerships, 908-526-1200, ext. 8278.

RVCC, located on 118 Lamington Road in Branchburg, NJ, and serving Somerset and Hunterdon County residents for over 40 years, offers more than 90 associate degrees and certificates. In addition, customized training programs and non-credit courses are available for those seeking personal and professional development.

The College is committed to offering a quality and affordable education through effective teaching, liaisons with the community's businesses and state-of-the-art technology. For further information, visit www.raritanval.edu.

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