

# Stockton on the Shore' initiative leaves its mark in South Jersey

"Stockton On the Shore" is the name for Richard Stockton College's initiative to leave "foot-prints" throughout the South Jersey region. They do this in many ways, including the new Carnegie Library Center satellite location in Atlantic City and the "Stockton Goes to the Beach" Summer Concert Series.

There might not be a finer example of "Stockton on the Shore" than the Southern Regional Institute and Educational Technology Training Center (SRI/ETTC) which recently relocated to a 6,000-square-foot headquarters in Mays Landing. The SRI/ETTC is headed by Chief Executive Officer Dr. Harvey Kesselman, himself a Stockton graduate and member of the charter class at the Mayflower Hotel in Atlantic City. A consortium of 73 school districts, as well as public and private organizations, SRI/ETTC represents more than 82,000 students from SlftMsldiW-garten through 12th gra^

"We have grown a gnat dead in a short period of time, and there doesn't seem to be a limit for the deimfnd for our services," Kesselman says.

The SRI/ETTC provides training opportunities in the latest instructional technology, computers, telecommunications and distance learning, and has already trained more than 8,000 teachers..

Membership includes every public and non-public school district in Atlantic County, every public school district in Cumberland County, and numerous government, non-profit agencies, charter schools, and colleges throughout the region. In just the last year alone, SRI/ETTC membership grew 12 percent, necessitating the move to the Mays Landing facility. Moving west was also a strategic move, placing the new center closer to the seat of Atlantic County government and accessible to a larger number of schools.

In addition to new members, the SRI/ETTC has been attracting grants and contracts. It was recently awarded a three-year, \$825,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Education earmarked toward improving the teaching of math and science in our local schools. Further, the organization has more than a dozen contracts with individual school districts in support of their grant activities.

Impressive and serious as this may seem, the SRI/ETTC is also a hands-on fun place where teachers and professionals can learn how the latest innovations in technology can be put to the best use for their needs. The new Mays Landing Center is equipped with what Kesselman calls his "toy room" in which the latest hardware is available for student interaction. The center also boasts:

- A lending library of equipment and software that teachers can borrow.
- Free workshops offered to SRI members.
- High-end Mac and PC computers with video editing software capabilities.
- Videoconferencing to connect with off-site locations.
- Wireless computer lab enabling many different room setups.
- A mobile unit enabling a wireless computer classroom "to-go."

"Our success has been such that a major university recently asked to learn about some of our techniques," Kesselman said. "We declined to do that, but we did offer to sign some of their people up for a professional development workshop."

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