



WCDC College Prep Program Now Available for Students Throughout Camden County

WCDC's college prep program has expanded beyond its Camden City borders to help students in Camden County. The first county-wide classes started on February 11 at UMDNJ's Stratford campus. Kids from Winslow, Lindenwold, Cherry Hill, Pennsauken and Overbrook school districts made up the 30 high school juniors who rose to the top of the very competitive pool of applicants.



Each student was required to submit an application along with their transcripts and a written statement about their college aspirations. Dr. Deborah Bowles, formerly of Rutgers University, who now serves as the WCDC College Prep program coordinator made the selections. "We were looking for students with strong academic commitments, with no attendance problems and who showed they were serious about pursuing college."

To be considered for this 10-week course, students have to be eligible for free or reduced lunch, and they must have taken algebra and geometry. The program is free to the students – who are all preparing to sit for the May 5th SAT test.

WCDC's College Prep program was launched in 2010, and since the very beginning, 100% of the students who complete course have increased their practice SAT scores – some by as much as over 300 points. Some 50 students from Camden have already graduated from the program.

WCDC, along with partners Rutgers-Camden and Kaplan Test Prep and Admission, provide weekly SAT prep sessions, as well as workshops for parents and students that focus on the college admission process, understanding financial aid forms, other resources and insight into what to expect while attending college.

Program funders include Camden County Human Service Grants and the Department of the State Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. "We're also grateful to Kaplan Test Prep and Admission which donated five additional students slots to meet a higher than expected demand for the course," said WCDC President Rev. Floyd White.

White hopes to expand the program even further to include college tours, and during summer 2012, WCDC seeks to place graduates in summer internships. Support for this expansion will be a major focus of Woodland CDC's May 2nd fundraiser.