

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: New Jersey Farm to School Network

Contact: Beth Feehan

Phone: 609 577-5113

Email: info@njfarmtoschool.org

Web site: www.njfarmtoschool.org

New Jersey Farm to School Network announces Winter Conference

It Takes a Village: Collaborations in Good Food and School Gardens

Mays Landing, NJ, December 15, 2011 —The New Jersey Farm to School Network will host a winter conference, “It Takes a Village: Collaborations in Good Food and School Gardens,” February 24 and 25, 2012 at Atlantic Cape Community College, 5100 Black Horse Pike, Mays Landing in Walter E. Edge Hall. With support from the AtlantiCare Foundation, the conference will highlight collaborations in southern New Jersey among higher education, not-for-profit organizations, K-12 schools and community organizers who are bringing good food and nutrition education solutions to the region. The conference will be of interest to educators, healthcare providers, agricultural professionals, philanthropists, and students seeking degrees in education, healthcare, social sciences, agriculture and/or the culinary arts.

Registration each day will be at 9 a.m. Presentations will begin at 9:45 a.m. The conference will go until 4 p.m. Friday and 3:30 p.m. Saturday. The conference agenda Friday will feature Farm to School projects including the introduction of newly developed food products made from New Jersey-grown produce developed through the Rutgers Food Innovation Center. Organizers will also share results from a statewide Farm to School survey the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Division of Family and Community Health Sciences conducted.

The afternoon session will highlight the Campus Kitchen program, a collaboration of the Atlantic Cape Community College Academy of Culinary Arts; Atlantic City High School; The Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City; Richard J. Stockton College of New Jersey; and Sodexo, Inc.

Saturday’s conference agenda will showcase school and community garden programs in Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester counties. They include gardens supported by the AtlantiCare Foundation’s Growing Green Initiative in Atlantic City, The New Jersey Agricultural Society’s Ag in the Classroom program in Margate and Ventnor; Rutgers Cooperative Extension Division of Family and Community Health Sciences in Gloucester County and The Center for Environmental Transformation in Camden.

The New Jersey Farm to School Network was founded in 2008 to provide a statewide resource for farm to school programs. The Network works with schools, farmers, advocates, food service

professionals, state agencies and others in New Jersey to improve school lunches and promote school garden programs.

Registration fee is \$40 for both days and \$25 for one day. Inaugural membership dues to become a member of the New Jersey Farm to School Network for one year will be available during registration for \$10.

For more information, call 609-577-5113, find the New Jersey Farm to School Network on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/njfarm2school> or visit www.njfarmtoschool.org.

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