PRESS RELEASE
CITY OF BRIDGETON

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RUTGERS FOOD INNOVATION CENTER HOLDS FOOD INDUSTRY TRAINING SEMINAR
Bridgeton residents receive industry intro to food processing, production, manufacturing, and handling

Coming on the heels of the October 17th Grand Opening, the Rutgers Food Innovation Center hit the ground running this month by holding the first of many work-force and industry training seminars designed to equip the food industry with trained workers.

Matching resources with needs, supply with demand, the Food Innovation Center was host to a group of over 40 City and County residents at the November 12th seminar which was designed to provide a working introduction to industry specific disciplines such as food processing, food production, good manufacturing practices, industry appropriate hygiene and sanitation.

The event, hosted by Rutgers and sponsored Gloucester County College, was free to area residents and served as a first step in gearing participants to pursue a job in the food industry.

While seminar participants are hopeful that the introductory training will result in being selected to fill the limited number of available full-time and part-time positions at the Food Innovation Center, Director Lou Cooperhouse sees the training as valuable for any job in the food industry.

“We think it will be extremely helpful to anyone applying for a job in the food industry. Completing this course, and noting this on a resume, will allow a person to potentially stand out from others that may be applying for a job in the food industry” Cooperhouse said of the seminar.

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center works with new business startups, farmers, and established food companies, allowing them to develop and manufacture their products and sell to consumers. Examples of what the Food Innovation Center will soon be producing include agricultural and food products such as fresh-cut vegetables, fruits, soups, sauces, jams, jellies, beverages, pies, cakes, breads, entrees and side dishes.

The training seminar, according to City Director of Development & Planning John Barry, will provide for a prepared workforce in Bridgeton. “We have a very strong viable workforce and providing specific job training is fundamental to economic growth and employment. This education program provides our people with basic food industry skills that are required for entry into the field. FIC is immediately serving our community and providing a much needed spring board”, Barry said.

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To learn more about the Rutgers Food Innovation Center visit www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu
To learn more about the City of Bridgeton visit www.cityofbridgeton.com