

## **Rutgers University Center for Children and Childhood Studies Receives Major Grant from the William Penn Foundation**

Students representing Camden city's Early Care and Education community arrived on the Rutgers Camden campus this fall for the start of the third phase of the Camden Professional Development Pathways Initiative. This program, developed by Senior Program Director, Angela Connor was recently awarded a two-year grant in the amount of \$473,000 from the William Penn Foundation. The initiative is a continuation of a major effort of RU-CCCS' Service and Outreach division to provide the Camden community with a cadre of highly qualified individuals in the profession of early care and education. RU-CCCS works in close partnership with Camden County Division for Children, Camden County College's Human Service department and the New Jersey Professional Development Center to ensure the sustainability of the projects many pioneering initiatives. Coordination of the programs is provided through RU-CCCS by Ms. Rebecca Heritage and evaluated by Dr. Liesa Stamm.

Major programs under this initiative include a groundbreaking college readiness program for non-traditional students returning to higher education; a concentration in mentorship development; the creation of cluster groups within the childcare community to facilitate training, mentoring and technical advisement and the first ever training and advisement program for family childcare providers. The programs are a reflection of the centers' long-standing partnership with key stakeholders in the Camden childcare community.

The Camden Professional Development Pathways Initiative has been the recipient of additional major funding including the City of Camden, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Schumann Fund for New Jersey.

The William Penn Foundation, founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia region through efforts that foster rich cultural expression, strengthen children's futures and deepen connections to nature and community. In partnership with others, the Foundation works to advance a vital, just and caring community. Learn more about the Foundation online at [www.williampenfoundation.org](http://www.williampenfoundation.org).

For more information about the Camden Professional Development Pathways Initiative for Early Childhood Educators, please contact Angela Connor at (856) 225-6739.