



GLOUCESTER COUNTY COLLEGE

learning for real life 

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LISA THOMAS-LAURY TO DELIVER GCC COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Deptford Twp. – Gloucester County College is pleased to announce that Lisa Thomas-Laury, WPVI-TV news anchor and reporter, will be the keynote speaker at the College's 40th commencement on Thursday, May 21, at 6 p.m. on the College plaza.

An accomplished and renowned local television journalist, Thomas-Laury has been recognized for her special series on hard-to-adopt children and Channel 6's award-winning monthly Public Affairs program, "Fast Forward" and "Children First." She has covered numerous political elections and has been the recipient of copious media and community service accolades including Philadelphia's most prestigious honor, the Liberty Bell Award, from the Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities. She is currently the honorary chairperson of the local chapter of Maternity Care Coalition, a Delaware Valley organization that supports mothers in need, and of Acting Without Boundaries, which provides young people with disabilities an opportunity to pursue their love of acting and performing.

"As the mother of one college graduate four years ago, and another this year, I am aware of the challenges our young sons and daughters face in an increasingly fast-paced world," said Thomas-Laury. "I am honored to have been asked, and am enthusiastically looking forward to imparting what I hope will be an encouraging message to this year's graduates of Gloucester County Community College. If, by sharing some of my life experiences, can even in some small way, have a positive impact on how they embrace their futures, I will know I have offered the best of myself."

“Our community is proud of our graduating class of 2009 and I am sure they will be inspired by the message that Ms. Thomas-Laury will offer them at this year’s GCC commencement,” said Freeholder Director Stephen M. Sweeney. “It is an honor to have a journalist of her caliber speak at graduation, I am sure we will all take something from her experiences,” Sweeney said.

Freeholder Joseph A. Brigandi Jr., who serves as liaison to Education for Gloucester County said that commencement is an important milestone for the graduating students. “Ms. Thomas-Laury is a wonderful choice as commencement speaker; she has a strong work ethic and has overcome obstacles in her career and personal life. We are all looking forward to her visit to GCC and her speech,” Freeholder Brigandi said.

“We are excited to have Lisa Thomas-Laury as this year’s commencement speaker. In addition to being a gifted communicator who is well-known to our student population and their families, Mrs. Thomas-Laury is also a wonderful role model,” said Dr. Russell A. Davis, president of Gloucester County College. “She uses her education and experience as a reporter to bring awareness to conditions and events, helping to improve the lives of people within the community. She is an inspiration personally and professionally.”

“At GCC, student success is our number one priority,” said College Board of Trustee Chairman Gene J. Concordia. “On May 21, more than 700 graduates will be recognized for pursuing their dreams. It is indeed a time to celebrate as our students leave the campus prepared to enter the job market or continue their education at four-year universities.”

Gloucester County College will hold its 2009 Commencement on Thursday, May 21, at 6 p.m. in the plaza. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved into the Physical Education Center. The College’s 250-acre campus is located on Tanyard Road in Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55.

Located in Deptford Township, N.J., Gloucester County College is a comprehensive two-year institution of higher learning with more than 6,000 full- and part-time day and evening students enrolled in 70 academic programs in business, humanities, allied health, technologies and the math and sciences. An additional 10,000 men and women are registered in the college’s non-credit Continuing Education Division classes. To learn more about Gloucester County College and its programs, visit www.gccnj.edu.