

Gloucester County College receives piece of World Trade Center steel, to erect 9/11 memorial

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By **Jessica Bautista/Gloucester County Times** Gloucester County Times



State Sen. President Stephen Sweeney talks with Deputy Executive Director Bill Baroni, of the Port Authority New York/New Jersey, before the start of an acceptance ceremony of a piece of steel from the World Trade Center at Gloucester County College, August 14, 2012. (Staff Photo by Tim Hawk/Gloucester County Times)

DEPTFORD TWP. — Gloucester County College had the distinct honor of accepting a piece of steel from the World Trade Center site this morning among county dignitaries, college faculty and students, and the region’s first responders.

The piece of steel — one of a scarce supply remaining from the World Trade Center — will be used to create a memorial at the college to remember the lives of 9/11 first responders, victims and their families.

“This small piece of steel will make a large impact on our students, the future Police Academy and Fire Academy recruits and all of those who pass by it. We are grateful to have such a sacred piece of the World Trade Center at our college,” said Gloucester County Freeholder Director Robert M. Damminger.

The piece of steel was donated to the college by the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey at the request of state Sen. President Stephen Sweeney and Fred Madden, Gloucester County College Dean of Law and Justice.

“We live in the greatest country in the world and we have the right to free speech, to publicly disagree on important subjects, vote for our leaders, and choose our faith. Some people in the world hate us for that,” Sweeney said.

“Having a memorial to 9/11 at this educational center is a way for us to have remembrance of what our nation is about, about the bravery of our first responders, and about the importance of being an American,” Sweeney said.