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## Warren Reporter

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with **The Warren Reporter**

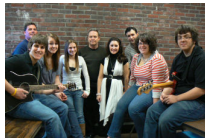
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# Centenary College fashion students launch Becca's Closet community service initiative

by [Warren Reporter](#)

Monday March 23, 2009, 8:35 AM

HACKETTSTOWN -- Centenary College Professor Kristen McKitish, director of co-curricular transitions, adjunct faculty and professor of the first-year course "Topical Issues Facing Today's Fashion Industry" said her students will start a chapter of Becca's Closet as part of their community service requirement for the course.

These fashion design and merchandising students are so enthused by this project, however, that they plan to continue their involvement for the four years they will be students at Centenary.

Becca's Closet is named after Rebecca "Becca" Kirtman, a 16-year-old who passed away in an automobile accident in 2003. Becca launched a dress drive in her freshman year of high school in Davie, Fla., to provide prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who could not afford to purchase them.

During her sophomore year, she single-handedly collected and donated over 250 formal dresses and helped hundreds of girls across South Florida attend their high school prom in style.

To keep Becca's dream alive, countless dedicated people throughout the world have joined with her family and friends to provide opportunities for those who seek them.

There are 81 active chapters of Becca's Closet. Only four are in New Jersey, and Centenary College is the only institution of higher education in New Jersey that runs a chapter.

"It is a requirement of the first-year students to do 20 hours of community service and I thought this organization was a great fit," says McKitish. "These students are fashion students, so they can also provide style advice to those shopping for their dress. Also, they just graduated from high school, so the prom is a recent memory to them. They can relate to these students."

This program is part of the Academic Foundations Program (AFC2), which is a comprehensive first-year program that was first implemented in 2003.

AFC's primary goal is to help first-year students make the transition from secondary school to college with equal -- and individualized -- attention given to academic, social and emotional development. The AFC Program strives to foster the spirit of civility and respect required for participation in a diverse democratic society, and endeavors to cultivate socially and ethically responsible behavior.

They students will run a Dress Open House on March 28 from 12 to 5 p.m., on April 3 from 3 to 9 p.m., and on April 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. All open houses will be held on the 3rd floor of the Joseph R. Ferry Music and Arts Building.

In addition, private appointments can be made for individuals to select their own prom dress. Gently used dresses are also now being accepted by the Chapter. Dresses that have stains, holes or zippers that are broken will not be accepted. Donations must be dry cleaned.

"We hope that our dedication to this project will inspire others to become involved," says Nate Smith, Centenary chapter president. "It will be satisfying to help fellow teens and should be a positive experience for all involved. People who are going to a formal or a wedding should take advantage of this service, as well."

For further information, please call **(908) 852-1400** ext. 4352 or e-mail [centenarybc@yahoo.com](mailto:centenarybc@yahoo.com).

Visit the Becca's Closet website at [www.beccascloset.org](http://www.beccascloset.org). The Centenary chapter also has a Facebook page. It can be found under the group Centenary Becca's Closet.

See more in [Education](#)

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- IRS announces how to find free tax services** 12:51 p.m. ET
- Warren Hills Regional High School teachers win Best Practice Awards** 10:45 a.m. ET
- Warren County ARTS group presents photography exhibit in Oxford** 7:02 p.m. ET
- Lopatcong resident Jason Sarnoski announces candidacy for Warren County Freeholder** 4:54 p.m. ET
- Hackettstown women to run in New York Central Park marathon** 3:05 p.m. ET

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Warren county dump by jackblack28 03/24/2009 11:59 a.m. ET
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