February 9, 2015

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TO: Stockton Faculty and Staff
FROM: Herman Saatkamp, President

At Stockton, our commitment to learning, engagement, global perspectives and sustainability is a solid foundation for all that we do. An integral part of this educational commitment is building a community that nurtures diversity and inclusion.

Promoting Stockton’s environment for excellence includes recognizing, understanding, and celebrating our similarities and differences. Fostering a thoughtful understanding of each other both promotes the good of our community and also enhances the lives of individuals. Such values are essential to academic freedom, responsibility, integrity and cooperation.

There are many benefits to diversity and inclusion. As we prepare our students to be engaged citizens in our nation and the world, an appreciation of diversity and inclusion is crucial to achieving the goals of a liberal arts education. In our global interconnectedness, we should understand and value alternative modes of understanding and diverse perspectives. Such understanding not only prepares us and our students for the future, it also fosters a better comprehension of our past and present cultural environments. The College’s role is crucial in the development of new ideas and the improvement of our community, locally and beyond.

Integrity, tolerance, empathy, and compassion are central to a diverse and inclusive College community. These human traits enable us to work effectively in a variety of contexts with people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Not only does engagement with diversity prepare students to become collaborative and productive contributors to our society, it also helps to ensure that the best interest of traditionally underrepresented students and colleagues are protected and their integrity preserved on our campus and in our communities. The College’s commitment to diversity and inclusion thus promotes important social values for life on campus and democratic citizenship.

I ask that each of us commit to making our campus a better, more diverse and inclusive community.

The College is committed to compliance with Equal Opportunity legal standards, including Title IX, the Civil Rights Act, and the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. We are also designated a Campus Affiliate of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), which represents a campus-wide commitment to use NCBI programs as a proactive response to
furthering Stockton’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and to promote social values on and off campus.

Valerie Hayes, Esquire, Chief Officer for Institutional Diversity and Equity, coordinates the College’s programs on Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action. The Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity is located in L-Wing Room 214 or can be reached at: (609) 652-4693; ide@stockton.edu.