Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are smokers being made to go the gazebos to smoke?

The “New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act,” N.J.S.A. 26:3D-56 prohibits smoking of tobacco products and the use of electronic smoking devices in all enclosed indoor places of public access and workplaces, with few exceptions. The legislature finds tobacco to be the leading cause of preventable disease and death and that it constitutes a substantial health hazard. The law requires property owners/managers to designate through proper signage where smokers are permitted and not permitted to smoke. In an effort to reduce litter and limit the hazards of secondhand smoke to the non-smoking community, Stockton has erected the gazebos to serve as the permitted smoking areas on campus.

2. Are non-smokers permitted to use the gazebos?

Anyone may use the gazebos; however, non-smokers should be aware that the primary purpose of the gazebos is to provide a space on campus where smoking is permitted to occur.

3. Will the College be erecting gazebos for the non-smoking community?

There are currently no plans to erect gazebos where smoking will not be permitted.

4. Who is responsible for enforcing the policy?

The smoking policy is no different than any other College policy. First and foremost, the College expects its employees to be mindful and respectful of all College policies. A supervisor aware or made aware of a violation shall take action to address the employee violating the policy. If the supervisor does not personally witness the violation, he or she must take into account the credibility of the accusation, including the person making the allegation. Progressive discipline, including a verbal warning followed by a written warning, is the ordinary course. Supervisors may take into consideration the employee’s overall performance in determining the final disciplinary
measure with the assistance and guidance of the Office of Human Resources.

5. What do I do if I witness a person smoking in a place where they should not be smoking?

It is possible that the smoker is not aware that they are smoking in an area where smoking is not permitted. Particularly visitors to campus must be informed by the offices inviting them to campus of the new policy. If the person smoking is an employee of the college, you may request the employee’s supervisor to enforce the policy. If the supervisor does not act, you may request the assistance of the Office of Human Resources.

6. I normally use my allotted employee break time to smoke. The gazebo closest to my workstation is further away from the place where I used to smoke. Am I allowed additional break time to make up for the distance I now have to travel?

No. There is no allowance for travel time to where an employee wishes to go to use their break time. If an employee chooses to go to the cafeteria during break time, they have the same amount of break time to travel back and forth, regardless of the distance from the cafeteria to the workspace.