

\$244,000 in Faculty, Student Research Presented at Stockton Board of Trustees Meeting

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Galloway Township, NJ - The Board of Trustees of Stockton University today received information on over \$244,000 for research and professional development projects that engage Stockton faculty with local, national and international organizations and that fund student research, including:

- Studying the effects of using medical marijuana on patients of a community-based organization;
- Investigating the experiences and needs of students enrolled at Stockton who were formerly in foster care and sharing this data with a regional group working to support such young men and woman in obtaining a college degree.

Dr. Tara Crowell, associate professor of Public Health in the School of Health Sciences, will receive \$6,000 to study the pain relief and overall well-being of patients using medical marijuana.

Dr. Robin Hernandez-Mekonnen, assistant professor of Social Work in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, will receive \$5,573 to do an assessment of the needs of former foster youth at Stockton.

Also presented were 37 research and professional development projects for a total of just over \$210,000, covering a wide range of topics including income bias in voter turnout and income inequality in the US., sustainable wine, violence against women, evaluating the anti-microbial and wound-healing potential of the North American cranberry, and a pilot project for testing a hurricane weather research and forecasting model.

Another \$7,500 in funding went to eight projects including a workshop on gospel music of the 1920s and 1930s in the United States, development of a tropical marine biology summer field course, and a theatrical performance of Eudora Welty's "The Golden Apples."

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Four other research projects received a total of \$18,223 from the Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA), including origami therapy for senior citizens, an oral history project to be conducted at Kramer Hall in Hammonton, continuing a series of poetry workshops for seniors, and providing training to screen for depression in older adults over the phone.

The trustees awarded \$1,000 distinguished fellowship awards for three students:

- Rebecca Claxton, a sophomore from Pennsville, NJ majoring in Mathematics, will study "Symmetries of the Vicsek Fractal," research aimed at encouraging students to pursue expertise in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- Leigh Fisher, a junior from Manahawkin, NJ majoring in Literature, will study "The Kingdom of Wu." This research will acquire accurate scholarly sources of information about prominent people from a Chinese Kingdom that lasted from the years 222 to 280 and will attempt to gather important often neglected historical information on modern research and literature. In addition, this research will promote Stockton's Digital Humanities Program and literary research by undergraduate students.
- Veniamin Smirnov, a senior from Ventnor, NJ majoring in Mathematics, will study "The Stability of Dynamical Systems. This research has potential applications in the areas of weather forecasting and economics and will encourage students to pursue expertise in the field of STEM.

In other business, two members of the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park Board were reappointed to terms that run through December 2017:

- Samuel Young is president of Tilton Fitness Management, a firm that owns and operates commercial and hospital-affiliated wellness centers. He is also a retired Navy captain and pilot.
- John Wiley has held numerous executive positions in his 36-year career in aviation, including serving as acting director of the FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center in Egg Harbor Township.

The Stockton ARTP, an auxiliary organization of the university, expects in the near future to accept a land lease that will allow construction to begin at the 58-acre location in Egg Harbor Township. The facility expected to generate research and ultimately, numerous well-paying jobs related to FAA programs shaping the future of aviation.

Prior to the regular Board meeting, there was a public hearing on tuition as required by law. Acting President Harvey Kesselman explained that until the state budget is approved, it is difficult to determine what, if any, changes there may be in tuition.

"We appreciate the input received today and will factor it into any decisions once we know what is approved in the state budget," Acting President Kesselman said.

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At its regular meeting, the Board set new rates for the coming academic year for transportation and housing, as well as for freshman orientation.

Most housing rates will increase by 2 percent. Rates for students in Housing 5 single rooms will increase by 3.5 percent while housing for those in a five-person apartment in Housing 1 will increase by 3 percent.

The transportation and safety fee is increasing by \$10 a semester, to \$90. The university has added to two new shuttles and will be increasing the frequency of trips to the main campus from facilities such as Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club, where about 220 students lived this year, and other housing sites. The increase for safety includes costs for police and security cameras.

The fee for freshman orientation will increase from \$120 to \$150.

An optional new fee of \$20 will be added for support group registration. Any student who wanted to attend group sessions at the clinic with their significant other would receive support and information about adapting to the diagnosis of a communication disorder, such as speech and hearing problems, through this fee.

Stockton University Board Chair Dean C. Pappas announced at the meeting that while he will remain an active member of the Board of Trustees, he is stepping down as chairman due to a serious health issue. Effective immediately, Vice Chair Madeleine Deininger '80, who has been actively partnering with Chair Pappas in leading the Board, will serve as chair.

"I believe that during this transitional period at Stockton, it is important that the leadership of the Board of Trustees is able to give full attention to the university as I need to concentrate on my health. I have every confidence Trustee Deininger will handle this position admirably and believe that the university is well-positioned for continued success," said Pappas.

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