



Stockton Students in Competition to Get Youth Involved on Fiscal Issues, National Debt

For Immediate Release with photo of Jessica Carey; 'Dodge the Debt' coverage opportunity outlined at end

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Galloway Township, NJ- Students at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey are in the midst of a nationwide competition designed to inform students about the long- and short-term impacts the federal debt will have on their lives - and to get them to take action.

Called "It's Up to Us," the competition is sponsored by the Clinton Global Initiative and Net Impact, a nonprofit with over 50,000 students and professionals in 300 chapters aiming "to drive transformational change in the workplace and world."

"It's Up to Us" pits students from 25 colleges and universities against each other for a \$10,000 top prize. The goal is to design and run the most thought-provoking, fun, and effective campaign, activating a large portion of the student body.

The Stockton team is comprised of: Jessica Carey, team captain, a junior from Chatham, NJ majoring in Political Science; Katerina Childs, vice captain, a junior from Lacey Township who's a Criminal Justice major; Mico Lucide, of Galloway, a senior majoring in Political Science, Angelo Bechara, a freshman from Egg Harbor Township, and Tarek Gad, a senior Economics major who is originally from Egypt but now lives in Egg Harbor Township.

"I honestly believe we have a true chance at winning this," Carey said this week. "I would say we are definitely within the Top 7 schools right now out of 25 overall. That's something to really be proud of, when you consider some of the schools we are competing against - Duke University, University of Michigan, George Washington University, Tufts University, New York University... the list is filled with very competitive, high caliber schools. It's wonderful that Stockton is involved with this."

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The winning team will receive \$10,000 and be recognized by President Clinton at the 2014 Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU) in March. Prizes of \$2,500 will be awarded to teams for special achievement in themed areas such as civic engagement and social media.

Each team, including Stockton's, received \$2,000 in funds to run a four-to-six week campaign. The Stockton team has:

- created an online [petition](#) asking the state Legislature to increase resources for civics programs in public schools to encourage civic engagement.
- made a YouTube [video](#) which received more than 1,200 views in its first two days. The goal is to be the first to receive 10,000 views, Carey said.
- encouraged as many people possible to take a five-question [quiz](#) on the national debt, available only on Facebook. As of this week, Stockton had a strong lead, Carey said, with 741 quiz takers compared to the second-place team's 649.

The team has also offered a "Jeopardy: National Debt edition" game at the college and plans lectures by several Economic professors. Informational tables have been set up on campus and at Egg Harbor Township High School.

Their next major event is Dodge the Debt, a dodge ball tournament to be held Sunday, Feb. 16 from noon to about 3 p.m. in the I-Wing

Players will hear facts about the debt read between each round, with a quiz at the end of the tournament.

Members of the team that wins the tournament and the team that gets the most answers correct on the quiz will all receive \$75 Visa gift cards.

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