Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., President of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, has been named “Educator of the Year” by the Research and Development Council of New Jersey.

Dr. Saatkamp will receive the award as part of the R&D Council’s annual 32nd Thomas Alva Edison Patent Awards Dinner to take place Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011, at the Liberty Science Center in Liberty State Park, Jersey City. In its long history, only two other people have received the Educator of the Year designation. Princeton University President Shirley Tilghman (2003), and Merck Institute of Science Education Executive Director Dr. Carlo Parravano (2010).

The Educator of the Year Award is one of three special honors, which also includes Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (Chairman’s Award) for his work in keeping science and technology a national priority; and Merck inventors Dr. Ann Weber and Nancy Thornberry, developers of the landmark diabetes medication, Januvia. They are co-recipients of the council’s Science and Technology Medal.

“It’s an honor, indeed, to be included in such company as the three recipients of special honors and also the more than 40 inventors receiving Thomas A. Edison Patent Awards, the 13 New Jersey-based businesses and the United States Army,” Dr. Saatkamp said. “New Jersey has always been a world leader in research and development, leading to numerous improvements for humankind. It is gratifying to see the research community recognize the many remarkable things happening here in our home state.”

The evening begins with a 5:30 p.m. cocktail hour, 7 p.m. awards ceremony and an 8:30 reception. There will be a special IMAX film presentation featuring all of the honorees.
R & D Council President Anthony Cicatiello said, “Some of the most innovative R&D in the world is done right here in New Jersey. The Council is proud not only to celebrate our foremost scientists, but to bring their work to life on the big screen so every New Jerseyan can see the faces of those who are changing our world.”

The Council said Dr. Saatkamp earned his Educator of the Year honors for “shaping educational programs and outreach to bring together industries and communities and build on the strength of the region’s economy.”

In this regard, Dr. Saatkamp served as president of the NextGen Aviation and Tech Park currently under development near Atlantic City International Airport in Egg Harbor Township, and has spearheaded Stockton’s growth in the region including new centers in Atlantic City and Hammonton, support of the Arts through partnerships with the Noyes Museum of Art and Dante Hall in Atlantic City, among many other initiatives.

“Stockton has an obligation to serve as a community partner and to leverage our resources for the greater good,” he said.

The Research & Development Council of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating an environment that supports the advancement of research and development throughout New Jersey. The Council is composed of senior representatives from industry, academia and government. Many R&D Council members represent today’s Fortune 500 companies. More information on the Council and the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Awards can be found at: www.rdnj.org.

For more information or to purchase event tickets, contact the Research and Development Council of New Jersey at 973-643-2118.

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