

## THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

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Office of Public Relations  
Pomona, NJ 08240

### **Stockton's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy To Announce Official Opening at News Conference on May 4**

*Ambassador William J. Hughes to Attend Local Think Tank Debut*

#### **For Immediate Release**

Friday, April 27, 2007

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** – The announcement of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy's official opening will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> in the Townsend Residential Life Center on the Galloway Township campus of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. At the conference, the Hughes Center will name the Stockton faculty recipient of a grant that will enable innovative research to address the pressing need for sustainable growth, planning and development in Southern New Jersey. Ambassador Hughes will attend the news conference.

The Center was founded by William J. Hughes of Ocean City. Ambassador Hughes' distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, working as Ambassador to Panama and teaching as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar of Public Policy at the College. Nominated in 1995 by President Clinton to become ambassador to Panama, William J. Hughes monitored preparations designed to return the Panama Canal to Panamanian control. Prior to that assignment, Ambassador Hughes served in the U.S. House of Representatives for two decades. Hughes served in the impeachment proceedings against Harry E. Claiborne, a U.S. District Court Judge in Nevada and as a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary. He also chaired the Select Committee on Aging, served on the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control and on the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Ambassador Hughes is currently Of Counsel in the Trenton office of the law firm of Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland and Perretti, LLP.

Ambassador Hughes' work has continued to have a profound impact the world over and in particular throughout Southern New Jersey. In recognition of these contributions, The Public Policy Center, The Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center and recently, the Bill and Nancy Hughes Performing Arts Center in Ocean City High School have been named after this honorable man.

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The William J. Hughes Center will be a catalyst for research, analysis and the generation of innovative policy solutions to the social, economic and cultural issues facing Southern New Jersey. The Center will serve as a forum for discussion on policy issues designed to engage citizens and policy makers in strengthening the voice of Southern New Jersey in public debate.

One of the first public policy projects to be funded by the Center will be announced at the conference. Requests for proposals were extended to acquire plans designed to apply research to responsibly deal with growth and development in Southern New Jersey. According to the Center, approximately 50 acres of open space are consumed by unplanned development daily such that NJ could be the first state to reach build-out, a situation in which no additional development is possible within the state. In recognition of the incredible and unplanned growth and development the area has undergone in recent decades, the Hughes Center asked for proposals targeted toward smart planning of sustainable development in the area, plans that preserve open space and encompass the need for affordable housing and housing equity. The grant funds a project that will produce a paper designed to inform policy makers in regard to these priorities and will be presented at a public policy forum next fall. The recipient of this \$5000 grant will be named at the news conference.

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