

Office of Public Relations
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Richard Stockton College of NJ Names Sharon Schulman to Head William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy

**Former Utility President, Government Official Selected to Lead Center
Named for Longtime Congressman, Ambassador**

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Galloway Twp., NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has named Ms. Sharon Schulman as Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. A resident of Erial, Camden County, Ms. Schulman brings a wealth of experience and resources to the Center. The Center was founded in 2007 as a catalyst for research, analysis and policy solutions to the complex issues facing New Jersey.

“Stockton is delighted to have distinguished alumna Sharon Schulman leading the William J. Hughes Center,” President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said. “Sharon provides leadership, credibility and understanding of a vast array of public policy issues. Equally important is her knowledge and experience in policy implementation. Sharon enables the Center to make an immediate positive impact in the region and statewide.”

The William J. Hughes Center was founded as part of Dr. Saatkamp’s vision for the College to expand its community outreach and service to the region. In addition to its role providing higher educational resources, Stockton’s President sees the College as an economic engine for Southern New Jersey and a conduit for serving the greater good. The Hughes Center is an important component of that mission. The Center was named in honor of William J. Hughes of Ocean City, longtime Southern New Jersey Congressman, Ambassador to Panama and Stockton Distinguished Professor. It serves as a forum for public discussion of policy issues to engage both citizens and policy makers and frames issues and policy matters in a way that encourages broader debate and strengthens the voice of Southern New Jersey.

“The formation of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy is a major step in helping southern New Jersey to increase its voice and presence with local, state and federal government. We can be the catalyst for research and a disseminator of information to help people, business and institutions,” said Ms. Schulman.

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Sharon Schulman To Head Hughes Policy Center/ page 2

According to President Saatkamp, Ms. Schulman's depth and breadth of experience and knowledge of government, business and public policy areas instantly makes the Hughes Center a powerful asset to the college and all of New Jersey.

In the 1990s, Ms. Schulman served as Chief Executive Officer for the NJ Board of Public Utilities, where she developed policies and strategies, and implementation and government relations on behalf of the state's utilities. Since then she was with Atlantic Electric as manager of the utility's public and regulatory planning as well as manager of external affairs including corporate publications and advertising, government and community relations. She was President of Consumers New Hampshire Water Company and for 12 years was President of Aqua New Jersey, Inc., of Hamilton Twp. In Mercer County, a public utility engaged in the treatment and distribution of potable water and the treatment of wastewater.

Prior to her career in utilities and government, Ms. Schulman founded and headed her own communications firm. The firm, Spe-Schul Communications of Vineland, specialized in service industries as well as government and cultural agencies and political campaigns. Before that she was Executive Director of the Bridgeton-Cumberland Tourist Association, which helped launch the tourism industry as a key aspect of the region's economic development and coordinated a visit by the King and Queen of Sweden.

During her time working with New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities, Ms. Schulman was involved in the development of telecommunications and energy policy in the state. Most recently she has been involved in the development of safe, affordable and available water supplies both regionally and nationwide. As a former Executive Director of the First Legislative District's office, Ms. Schulman was involved in the development of environmental laws to protect the ocean and beaches of the New Jersey shoreline.

Sharon Schulman earned her B.S. from Stockton (Biomedical Communications) in 1980 and a Master of Arts in Public Relations from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) in May of 1984. She also holds an MBA in Marketing from the University of Phoenix.

Ms. Schulman states that "On a personal level, this is an incredible opportunity to establish an on-going institute that will augment my alma mater, honor one of the most prestigious elected officials this region has ever had, and contribute something on-going to my native South Jersey. I am proud to have been chosen to coordinate the development of this Center by President Saatkamp and the Stockton leadership."

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