

Office of Public Relations  
Galloway Twp., NJ 08240

## **Stockton Chosen for New National Initiative on Protecting America's Fiscal Future**

### **For Immediate Release**

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is one of nine institutions chosen to participate in a new initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Given that the next generation of adults will labor under the nation's current and growing debt accumulation, the initiative, entitled *America's Future: Protecting the Fiscal Health of Our Democracy* will consider what college students can do to educate themselves and their communities about the need for bipartisan solutions to the nation's mounting debt.

The national initiative is a collaboration between members of AASCU's *American Democracy Project* and *Public Agenda*, a non-profit research and civic engagement organization based in Washington, DC. The Stockton project will be led by the College's Economics program in collaboration with the Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) and other organizations on campus. Assistant Professor of Economics and Director of the Stockton Center for Economic Education Ramya Vijaya will lead the efforts of a coordinating team, which currently includes Associate Professor of Economics and Coordinator of Women's Studies Ellen Mutari, Assistant Professor of Economics and Editor of *The South Jersey Economic Review* Oliver Cooke, and Professor of Psychology and Director of SCOSA David Burdick. Since children, women, and older adults often suffer disproportionately from economic disparities, a focus on these groups is vital. Their voices added to the dialogue may also help the nation to address the mounting debt with new and more effective approaches.

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Stockton Provost and Acting President Dr. David Carr notes that "This project will empower Stockton students to grapple with the significant political and economic issues facing our nation today and in the near future. By presenting them with the facts and analysis from a non-partisan perspective, our efforts will prepare students to seek appropriate solutions in their lives, in their communities, and in the nation. Stockton is honored to have been selected as one of only nine institutions chosen nationwide to host this program."

Throughout the year Stockton's America's Future project will sponsor or co-sponsor various programs and activities that aim to engage broad sections of the campus community and our south Jersey neighbors, in a conversation about our nation's fiscal circumstances and the policy options needed to confront and address these complex issues.

This programming will begin on Thursday, October 23, 2008, at 4:30 P.M. in Upper G-Wing Lounge on the Galloway Township Campus with a SCOSA lecture by Marcello Spinella titled "Aging Successfully with (or Without) Money". Additional programming highlights include:

- The Stockton Center for Economic Education workshop "Understanding National Debt" for K-12 teachers to be held in November 2008.
- SCOSA and Economics Program sponsored lecture on "National Debt" by Andrew Yarrow, Vice President of Public Agenda in February 2009.
- Wednesdays on Women Forum: "Guns, Butter, or Other Priorities: How the National Debt Affects Women" to be held on March 4, 2009.

Event details will be posted on the Stockton Homepage as information becomes available. For additional information, please contact Dr. Ramya Vijaya at (609) 652-4741 or e-mail her at [vijayar@stockton.edu](mailto:vijayar@stockton.edu).

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