

Stockton Trustees Accept New Scholarship, Act on Fees and Real Estate at Board Meeting

Atlantic City Fire Department 'Sand Pipers' Pipe Band Donates \$60,000;
Council of Black Faculty and Staff Contributes \$19,000 to Scholarships

For Immediate Release; with photos on [flickr](#)

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

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Galloway, N.J. - A new \$60,000 scholarship was established today by the Atlantic City Fire Department "Sand Pipers" Pipe Band with a gift signing at a meeting of the Stockton University Board of Trustees.

The Atlantic City Fire Department "Sand Pipers" Pipe Band Scholarship was donated to the Stockton University Foundation and will benefit active or retired public safety professionals or their children from Atlantic County or Ocean City.

The band was formed by Capt. Norman Wilson and Capt. John Mistler in 1997, honoring those in public safety and the military whose lives were lost in the line of duty by playing the pipes at memorial services. The group held its first fundraiser to benefit the families of fallen police, firefighters and EMS professionals in 2003, and later made it an annual event. To date, the band has awarded over \$130,000 to graduating high school seniors to help defray the costs of furthering their educations.

The Fire Department decided to transition its scholarships program to the collegiate level by creating an endowment with the Stockton University Foundation, said founder Wilson, now retired, who signed the gift agreement along with President Harvey Kesselman and Foundation Chair Richard Dovey.

"Stockton is grateful for the generosity and vision of the Atlantic City Fire Department 'Sand Pipers' Pipe Band in establishing this fund, which will help generations of devoted public safety professionals and their children to advance their educations," said Kesselman. **-more-**

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Wilson said, "It's probably going to go down as one of the proudest moments in the band's history. We're pleased to be partnering with Stockton and we expect to continue to grow this fund."

The initial award will be distributed in the 2017-2018 academic year. Student recipients must be a full-time undergraduate or part-time graduate student in good academic standing, and have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

"It is an honor for the Stockton University Foundation to be entrusted with this scholarship," said Philip Ellmore, chief development officer and executive director of the foundation. "We appreciate the Sandpipers' confidence in Stockton and their commitment to students from this region."

The trustees also set new rates for the coming academic year for housing, transportation and meal plans.

Most housing rents will be increasing in the 1 percent to 3 percent range for fall 2016/spring 2017, with eight out of 14 housing options increasing by 2 percent. There will be no increase for external university housing, such as at the Clarion Hotel in Absecon.

Rates for students in Housing 5 single rooms and Housing 1 four-person apartments will both increase by 3 percent while housing for those in a five-person apartment in Housing 1 will increase by 2 percent. A double room at Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club will increase by 1 percent.

The transportation and safety fee will increase by \$10 per academic semester, to \$100. The increase will support the construction of a new parking lot, new roadway and additional shuttle service.

Meal plans will increase by 2 percent to cover cost of food service operations. Stockton will continue to fund a food assistance program which helps students with financial challenges to afford balanced meals. This year, around \$34,000 was put in a fund dedicated to food aid.

Patricia W. Collins, assistant to the chief of staff in the president's office and president of the Council of Black Faculty and Staff (CBFS), presented a check to the University Foundation for \$19,000 for fiscal year 2016, which includes a \$7,000 matched contribution from the University Foundation to provide scholarships to deserving students.

"We are very grateful for the ongoing support the staff, faculty and community, as the council's mission is to provide financial assistance through our scholarship efforts, which makes the difference in helping students continue their education at Stockton," Collins said.

The council fosters communication among the Stockton community and the state concerning African-American personnel and students at Stockton. CBFS provides scholarships and supports the recruitment, hiring and well-being of African-American faculty, staff and other under-represented student groups.

Since 1981, the council has awarded over \$293,500 in scholarships and will award \$19,000 to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral recipients for fiscal year 2016-17.

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Stockton's Campus Police Department was recognized by Harry Delgado of the N.J. Association of Chiefs of Police for achieving reaccreditation. Of 470 eligible agencies in New Jersey, only 152 have earned accreditation and of those, less than one-third have done it twice, as Stockton's department has, Delgado said. Police departments must comply with 105 standards covering policies and procedures, management, operations and support services in order to achieve accredited status, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

The board also authorized President Kesselman or his designee to purchase property at 3430 Atlantic Ave. in Atlantic City for \$150,000, plus closing costs. The seller, 3430 Atlantic Avenue

Realty LLC, believes that the amount is below the property's fair market price, and intends to treat the difference between the purchase price and fair market value determined by an appraiser as a charitable contribution to Stockton. The property is near the site of the university's planned Atlantic City campus.

The president or his designee was further authorized to explore various real estate opportunities that are aligned with the university's long-term goals.

Trustee Meg Worthington was appointed to the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park Board, replacing former trustee James Yoh. SARTP student board member Courtney Keenan was reappointed.

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