



Stockton Agreement with Chatham University Provides Seamless Transition into Doctoral Program for Master's in Nursing Graduates

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**Contact: Maryjane Briant
News and Media Relations Director
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4593**

Galloway Township, NJ - Graduates of Stockton's Master of Science in Nursing Program, which prepares them to become nurse practitioners working with adults, may now apply to be accepted into the doctoral program at Chatham University in Pittsburgh.

President Herman Saatkamp of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and Chatham's President Dr. Esther L. Barazzone signed an agreement that allows these graduates to have a seamless transition to doctoral studies.

The application deadline is April 15 to start classes at Chatham this fall, said Dr. Edward Walton, graduate director for the MSN program, who spent the past 18 months exploring options for Stockton's MSN students to pursue a doctorate level education.

"We are estimating 8-10 students in this first group, which will be a combination of May 2014 graduates, Stockton Master in Nursing alumni, and current faculty members," Dr. Walton said.

"The movement to change entry-level educational requirements for nurse practitioners to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) level was endorsed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) almost 10 years ago," Dr. Walton said. "I don't think it is unreasonable to assume this change will happen in the next 5-10 years, so the graduate nursing program at Stockton can now offer an opportunity for our students to attain a doctor of Nursing practice degree through our new partnership with Chatham University."

"This partnership with Chatham University is another illustration of how much our graduates are valued by other universities," said Provost and Executive Vice President Harvey Kesselman. "Our Health Sciences graduates are going to make a difference in the lives of New Jerseyans."

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Chatham University in Pittsburgh is ranked among the top master's-level institutions in the Northeast by *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Princeton Review*. Stockton is also ranked in the top tier of colleges in the Northeast and is among the top six "Up and Coming" institutions in the North, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

Chatham University has an enrollment of more than 2200 in its three colleges. The Chatham College for Women, founded in 1869, is one of the oldest women's colleges in the United States; The College for Graduate Studies offers 21 master's and doctoral degree programs to both women and men; and The College for Continuing and Professional Studies offers eight degree programs through the doctoral level as well as non-degree and certificate programs, according to its web site.

"Graduates of our MSN program are already employed as nurse practitioners in many different health care settings throughout our community," said Interim Dean Bess Kathrins of Stockton's School of Health Sciences. "The nursing profession has a goal of students receiving their degrees without roadblocks in order to best meet the needs of the public. This agreement helps achieve this important goal of bringing highly qualified 'doctors of nurse practice' to our community."

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