

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton Cited by Carnegie Foundation for Work in Civic Engagement

College Cited for “Excellent Alignment” Among Mission, Culture, Leadership, Resources and Practices

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has been selected for the prestigious Community Engagement Classification as compiled by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The foundation, best known for its classifications based on curricular and research mission, began its relatively new Civic Engagement Classification in 2006. It uses an elective process in which colleges and universities apply and submit evidence that they have met the organization’s criteria for selection. More than 300 institutions applied this year. Stockton was among the 115 selected nationwide as “Community Engaged Institutions.”

“Stockton has a longstanding commitment to civic engagement as one of the core elements of our teaching and learning processes,” said Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president. “It is gratifying to have been recognized by an organization as well respected as the Carnegie Foundation. President Saatkamp, our Board of Trustees, faculty, students, administration and staff have embraced practices and programs that advance civic engagement.”

In addition to weaving events and activities designed to engage students and community members throughout its curriculum, Stockton hosts such institutes and organizations as the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy; the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism (LIGHT); the Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA); the Southern Regional Institute and Educational Technology Training Center (SRI & ETTC); and the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.

Its student-centered engagement initiatives include one of the nation’s first AmeriCorps service learning initiatives, the Stockton Center for Community Schools, which places college resources at the disposal of local school districts and student organizations such as Stockton Action Volunteers for the Environment (SAVE), one of the nation’s first student organizations devoted to environmental sustainability.

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“Through a classification that acknowledges significant commitment to and demonstration of community engagement, the Foundation encourages (institutions) to become more deeply engaged and to improve teaching and learning and generate socially responsive knowledge to benefit communities,” said Anthony Bryk, Carnegie Foundation president.

According to the Carnegie Foundation, a team of advisors conducted a pilot study with 14 colleges and universities to establish the framework for the classification criteria. Of those designated this year, Stockton is among 66 public institutions and 49 private. Thirty-five are research universities, 41 (including Stockton) are master’s colleges and universities, 25 are baccalaureate colleges, 12 are community colleges and two are considered “special focus” institutions. They represent campuses in 34 states.

The Foundation noted that the selected schools had demonstrated strong institutional alignment across leadership, infrastructure, strategic planning, budgeting, faculty teaching and community partnerships. “Although there remains room for growth and improvement—which we strive for, Stockton has clearly demonstrated a leadership role in all of these aspects of community engagement,” Kesselman said. “We are proud of the designation and will continue to live up to it each and every day.”

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