



## Founding Faculty Member William Daly Tells Graduates: Stockton Is 'Different and Better'

Over 700 Take Part in Commencement Ceremony

***For Immediate Release; list of graduates [attached](#); link to photos on [flickr](#)***

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**Galloway Township, NJ** - Graduates of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey have distinctive educational advantages that will help them “navigate successfully in this change-dominated era,” said William T. Daly, Distinguished Professor of Political Science in his Commencement address here today.

“Your Stockton education is, in fact, different and better and beautiful. And, as the educational offspring of that particular kind of education, so are you,” said Daly, a founding faculty member who remembers pigeons coming through the windows to land on his desk at the Mayflower Hotel on the Atlantic City Boardwalk in 1971, Stockton’s first year of classes.

Stockton was planned and founded in the late 1960s and early 1970s, precisely when a wall of globally generated change appeared on the American horizon, Daly said. The college designed its academic structures to help students learn how to deal with such dramatic changes, he said.

“There are strong reasons to believe you will all depart this ceremony stronger in your capacity to actually pursue your imagined future in concrete terms because of the distinctive nature of a Stockton education,” Daly said.

Stockton has become well known for its top-tier academic rankings, he noted, and as the graduates go out into the workforce to compete, they should remember: “You too have attended an elite college. Just one that’s more up-to-date and a good deal less expensive” than “colleges founded in a previous historical era that are now stuck there.”

He talked about how the college has grown with new academic programs and facilities such as the Campus Center, the new Unified Science Center and its expansion on the way. And soon to come, he noted, is “a brand new Atlantic City campus.”

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Stockton purchased the former casino Showboat Atlantic City for \$18 million on Friday, and will open a residential campus with a full schedule of classes beginning in fall 2015.

"It is appropriate today to celebrate both your achievements and your prospects," Daly told the graduates. "For today, you are young, with the capacity to imagine, and the time and training to pursue the future....Today you are here at the graduation gate. And on this special day all things are, for you, still possible."

He added that he and his fellow faculty members felt "privileged to serve this remarkable institution....and we hope you come back to visit us as the trajectories of your lives allow. Until that happy day, we say to you: goodbye, good luck, God bless and go get 'em!"

President Herman Saatkamp presided over the Commencement ceremony in the Sports Center, located on the college's main Galloway campus. Over 850 baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degree candidates earned degrees this month. Some 720 baccalaureate degree candidates participated in today's ceremony, with 135 master's and doctoral degree candidates set to take part in a spring Commencement ceremony in May.

"Our students are promises we make to a future we will not see, and at this graduation, with these fine students, you can see that we are delivering on our promises," President Saatkamp told the gathering.

"The families and friends of these graduates should be proud," President Saatkamp said. "You also are delivering on your promise to the future of our community, state, nation, and the world. These graduates are not merely going through a transition, they are on a springboard that will catapult them to new heights and new responsibilities. Our future depends on their effort, skills, intelligences and hard work."

President Saatkamp went on to say: "Here is an important message to our graduates: Having a college degree is not enough. Having a college degree gets you a long way because you have the ability to continue to learn and the likelihood of living well.

"Even so, there are no guarantees," he said. "What is ahead of you is the delight of moving forward into a new life but it also includes persistence, diligence, hard work, and the task of getting along with others who may be different from you in a cosmopolitan world.

"Our future depends upon building communities of respect and honor," he said.

In concluding, President Saatkamp said: "The Stockton spirit of education and values will carry you a long way. When you leave this graduation today, do not forget the lessons learned at Stockton in building communities, in joining hands with others who may have different backgrounds and different views. You are our hope and our best future."

Student Senate President Carl Archut Jr., from Paulsboro, NJ, delivered the student address.

"You entered this campus with dreams so enormous, they almost seemed unreachable," Archut told the graduates. "Now, you are able to call those dreams, accomplishments."

As the graduates prepared to leave Stockton, Archut reminded them, "Every ending serves as a new beginning. Today, you accept the responsibility to foster change in every situation you encounter, to create meaning in the lives of those you meet, and to leave behind a legacy.

"Each of you left a mark here at Stockton College...it is now time to leave your mark on the

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world,” Archut said. “In all that you do, please remember to believe in yourself. BE YOU. It is with authenticity that each of you will conquer any obstacle placed in your path; turning dreams into a reality.”

Archut is a junior Liberal Studies major with concentrations in Leadership and Hospitality Management. He is active in the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, the Stockton Entertainment Team (SET) and the Hospitality Society, and works as a Resident Assistant and student worker in the Office of the Dean of Students.

Dr. Betsy McShea, associate professor of Developmental Mathematics, was the faculty grand marshal.

Kennis Bero, who graduated today with a bachelor’s degree in Health Science, led the singing of Stockton’s alma mater, “Our Stockton.” Its lyrics are by Dr. Stephen Dunn, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in poetry and a Stockton Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing. The music was composed by Ellen Grolman, a cellist, educator and music reviewer.

A special moment in the ceremony came when Trustee Raymond Ciccone conferred upon Professor Daly the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. President Saatkamp and Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president of the college, presented Dr. Daly with his hood, the special attire worn to confer graduate degrees.

Daly has received three Outstanding Achievement Awards from the NJ Department of Higher Education, nine appointments by Stockton Student Senate as Social and Behavioral Sciences Professor of the Year, and he was the first recipient of the Stockton Alumni Association’s award for outstanding service to Stockton students.

He is the winner of the Academy for Educational Development’s national prize for educational innovation. He was instrumental in the development of Stockton’s Educational Opportunity Fund, the Basic Studies program and the General Studies program, and he chaired the institutional self-study which led to Stockton’s initial accreditation.

Daly, who will be retiring at the end of the school year, has had an enormous impact on students over the years. One look at [Stockton’s Facebook](#) page shows hundreds of people weighing in, including over 100 comments such as these:

Kelly Bertonazzi: “He is the most devoted, intelligent, altruistic, and sincere person I have ever met. Professor Daly has made a tremendous impact on me as a person.”

Sage Stuart: “He’s a Stockton legend! He taught my father in the 70’s and myself last year. So lucky to know him!”

Sean Havern: “There is no one whose words I remember more from my time at Stockton. Bill Daly is an inspiration to every student fortunate enough to meet him.”

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**Editor’s Note:** It is recommended that the following language be published with the list of graduates:

The names in this list are those of degree candidates as of Nov. 12, 2014, not those who have been graduated officially. Not every individual who is listed has received a degree from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and there may be omissions of graduates, as well.