

## Stockton Trustees Approve Flat-Tuition for Summer Courses at Instructional Sites

Award, Retirement and Budget Actions Also Taken at December Meeting

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway, NJ** - Stockton University's Board of Trustees today approved summer tuition rates designed to promote courses at the university's instructional sites in Atlantic City, Manahawkin Woodbine and Hammonton.

Any undergraduate who enrolls in at least one course at any of those sites will be eligible for flat-rate summer tuition for additional classes at any instructional site or on the Galloway main campus. Flat-rate tuition enables students to take up to 20 credits for the price of 12. Next summer, after paying \$1,567.76 in tuition and fees for the first 4-credit course, students will be able to take a total of three 4-credit courses for the price of two, at \$3,135.52.

The board also approved conferring a Distinguished Service Award upon Patricia Reid-Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Africana Studies, at the Dec. 20 Baccalaureate Commencement ceremonies. Reid-Merritt is a respected author, educator, scholar, community activist and performing artist, as well as a long-standing member of the Stockton faculty.

She has served as a Ford Fellow with the National Council for Black Studies at the University of Ghana and on the Board of Directors of the National Council for Black Studies. Reid-Merritt has served as chairperson of the Fannie Lou Hamer National Statue Committee since 2009, and is the recipient of numerous awards including the NAACP Freedom Award, Stockton's Council of Black Faculty and Staff Annual Achievement Award, and the Mary McLeod Bethune and Carter G. Woodson 2014 award for the most significant contribution to the promotion of Africana Studies.

The trustees authorized a separation and retirement agreement with its former president, Herman J. Saatkamp.

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According to the agreement, signed by Madeleine Deininger, chair of the Board, Saatkamp had informed the board that he would retire and discontinue his sabbatical and all employment as of Dec. 31. He had resigned his position as president effective after Aug. 31, having been on medical leave prior to that since April.

“During Dr. Saatkamp’s 12-year presidency, Stockton attained university status and gained national recognition for academic excellence,” Deininger noted. “The main campus was transformed during his tenure, with the opening of the Campus Center and the Unified Science Center. Stockton also expanded by opening instructional sites in Atlantic City, Hammonton, Manahawkin and Woodbine in recent years. I know you all join me in wishing him well in retirement.”

The university also was authorized by the board to seek state funding of \$26,635,923 for Fiscal Year 2017 to maintain Stockton’s existing initiatives as well as provide resources to plan for expansion and growing student enrollment. Currently the proposed FY 2017 direct state appropriation for Stockton is \$17,649,000.

The full amount requested would restore Stockton to the appropriation level received from the state in 2006 and would enable the growing university to add faculty and staff and to expand the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy programs.

The trustees approved accepting financial awards from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to conduct a user survey of select Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), focusing on recreational use and land use; and to develop a wildlife education and demonstration project for the campus.

DEP funded the first proposal for \$452,942 through Aug. 31, 2018, with Stockton to provide \$179,235 to meet DEP’s match request. DEP provided \$24,900 for the second project through Dec. 1, 2016.

The trustees authorized the university to seek endorsement from the New Jersey Presidents Council to offer an online Genocide Prevention Certificate, developed by the Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies program in conjunction with the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation. This would be the first academic certificate program of its kind in the world. Students would be recruited from governments, militaries, non-government organizations and businesses around the world as well as from undergraduate and graduate programs.

The N.J. Presidents Council is made up of the presidents of the state’s public, private and community colleges and universities that receive state aid.

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