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Stockton President Announces Changes in Academic, Administrative Leadership

Dr. Harvey Kesselman Named Dean of Education; Matthew Altier Heads Administration and Finance

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Galloway Twp., NJ – President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. has announced two major appointments in the academic and administrative areas of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Dr. Harvey Kesselman of Mays Landing, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance, will become Dean of Education at the College. Mr. Matthew D. Altier has been named Vice President for Administration and Finance.

Dr. Kesselman held a variety of positions across every division of the college over a span of more than three decades and will begin a new role as Dean of Education. A student in the College's earliest days, Dr. Kesselman attended Stockton when it operated in a temporary campus at the Mayflower Hotel in Atlantic City and began his career in 1979 as Director of Residential Life. He has been Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program and Vice President for Student Affairs and CEO of the Southern Regional Institute/Educational Technology Training Center (SRI/ETTC) among other key positions at the College.

Most recently Dr. Kesselman headed the Administration and Finance Divisions at Stockton on an interim basis while Dr. Saatkamp directed a national search that resulted in Altier's appointment.

Altier will succeed Dr. Kesselman as Vice President for Administration and Finance. He comes to Stockton from California State University, Sacramento; where he was University Vice President for Planning, Real Property and New Business, and Chief Executive Officer, University Enterprises, Inc.

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“Dr. Harvey Kesselman’s experience and service to the College spans virtually every aspect of our operations,” President Saatkamp said. “As Interim Vice President, he selflessly directed Administration and Finance and enabled the College to progress on its long-range strategic growth plan while we recruited a talented administrator of the caliber of Matthew Altier. As a result of Dr. Kesselman’s interim leadership, the College seamlessly transitioned from the retirement of former Vice President for Administration and Finance Charles Klein, to Altier’s appointment,” President Saatkamp said.

During his tenure as Interim Vice President, Dr. Kesselman oversaw the final phases of construction of a major new housing complex on campus, helped secure funding for a new Campus Center, made several key hires in finance, facilities, and administration. He established numerous cost-saving best practices, and effectively managed college investments and finances, among many other accomplishments. He oversaw a workforce of over 400 employees.

As Dean of Education, Dr. Kesselman will direct the School of Education, the SRI/ETTC -- which he envisioned, founded and grew into the largest consortium of its kind in the state of New Jersey – in addition to Stockton’s graduate programs in education and instructional technology under one organizational umbrella.

“Dr. Kesselman’s entrepreneurial talents have created new sources of revenue for Stockton at a time of reduced state funding,” President Saatkamp said. “As Dean of Education he will have the additional flexibility and freedom to create programs and opportunities for our students and faculty.”

Matthew D. Altier comes to Stockton from a 29,000-student institution and with a depth and breadth of financial and administrative acumen. He was responsible for University Master Planning, management of property and real estate development, development of public-private partnerships, and many other areas of University operations. As CEO, he directed 400 full-time and 1,800 part-time employees including the Finance Officer and Director of Business Affairs. Mr. Altier worked at Cal State Sacramento since 2001 and was involved in the construction of a new bookstore, an academic information resource center, a major residence hall and several additional new buildings. He also spearheaded campus beautification and signage projects.

“Matt Altier is an innovative thinker whose talents are a great fit for Stockton’s future plans,” Dr. Saatkamp said. “He shares our vision for the College to be an economic engine for the region and source of research, job development and community partnerships in further enhancing our educational mission.”

In addition to his educational background in industrial technology and engineering, Altier served for ten years in the United States Air Force as an air traffic controller and chief of design and construction management. He resided in Fair Oaks, CA and will relocate to Linwood.

“Dr. Kesselman has left Stockton’s Administration and Finance areas in extraordinary condition as we move forward with our strategic and master plans,” President Saatkamp said. “I’m pleased we are able to turn these responsibilities over to a very able successor in Matthew Altier.”

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