

Stockton's Office of Global Engagement Celebrates Grand Opening of Educational Language Services (ELS) Center

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Galloway Township, NJ – Stockton University's Office of Global Engagement officially opened its Educational Language Services (ELS) Language Center today, where nearly 40 international students seeking study in the U.S. will complete coursework to strengthen their English as a second language.

Stockton partnered with ELS Language Centers, one of the world's largest English Language schools, to provide conditional admission for international students who are academically qualified, but do not meet English language proficiency requirements at the time of application.

"The opening of the Educational Language Services Center is the most recent example of Stockton University's global initiatives," said Acting President Harvey Kesselman. "This partnership will provide Stockton students with experiential learning of other cultures, languages and values. Both ELS students and Stockton students will benefit from the blending of their experiences and better prepare them for a global workforce."

High school and college students as well as business professionals take English as a second language courses at Stockton's ELS Center and either live on Stockton's campus or participate in a homestay program for an added cultural component.

Stockton's international students in the current cohort represent 10 countries: Saudi Arabia, Japan, Mexico, Gabon, Brazil, China, Turkey, South Korea, Colombia and Switzerland.

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“The internationalization of the university campus and curriculum has become an imperative for higher education globally,” said India Karavackas, director of Stockton’s Office of Global Engagement. “The global mobility of students is on the rise every year and it is important for us to both send out students abroad and to receive them from other countries. Employers value the ability of employees who can communicate effectively across cultures. ELS is just one of multiple initiatives at Stockton that will help us to better prepare our students for the global workforce. We are fortunate to have them as a partner.”

“We partnered last year in working toward internationalizing the campus and in developing a cultural competency for all of our students,” said Phil Malfitani, director of the ELS Center.

Stockton Study Abroad students partner with international students taking English as a second language courses through the Cultural Navigators program. Stockton faculty members have volunteered to be a part of the homestay network, providing housing for the students.

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