

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton Establishes Veteran Advisory Board

Prominent Leaders Comprise Group

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has established a Veteran Advisory Board to work in conjunction with the newly established Office of Veteran Affairs. The panel is comprised of prominent leaders in education, business, workforce development and veteran and military affairs.

“Community partnerships are crucial to Stockton’s mission,” President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said. “The formation of the Veteran Advisory Board will help us to better meet the needs of serving student veterans and active service members, and in establishing vital resources that will boost workforce and economic development in South Jersey.”

The panel’s formation comes on the heels of Stockton’s significant increase in its outreach efforts to student veterans and active military students. The College’s Office of Veteran Affairs, newly formed under the auspices of the Office of the Dean of Students in the Division of Student Affairs, is designed to assist student veterans and active service members with their unique academic needs.

The new Board includes key members of the Stockton community and prominent members and leaders in government, chambers of commerce, veteran and military affairs. The members of the Board include: Matthew Altier, Stockton Vice President for Administration and Finance; Lieutenant Colonel Mark Anarumo, Chair of Homeland Security and Terrorism Studies at Stockton College; Michelle Andrews, Atlantic Cape Community College’s Certifying Veteran Officer; Ronald Caro, Stockton Assistant Professor in the School of Education; Senior Vice Commander Robert Ford, VFW Memorial Post; Atlantic County Director of Veteran Affairs Robert Frolow; Senior Veterans Supervisor Howard Garabedian, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Stockton’s Assistant Director of Admissions Melvin Gregory; Dr. Thomas Grites, Stockton’s Assistant to the Provost; Alison Henry, Stockton’s Associate Dean of Admissions; Joseph Kelly, President of the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce; Charles Kern, President of the Student Veterans Organization at Stockton;

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Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Stockton's Dean of Education; Director of Programs and Policy Analysis Wendy Lang, New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities; Workforce Development Manager 1 Michael Lazarchick, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Stockton's Director of Financial Aid Jeanne Lewis; Stockton's Assistant Dean of Students and Co-Chair of the Veteran Advisory Board Thomas J. O' Donnell; Stockton Student Veteran Becky Patterson; US Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Shannon; and Stockton's Coordinator of the Office of Veteran Affairs and Co-Chair of the Veteran Advisory Board Patrick Shields.

Stockton has a long history of assisting its student veterans, including a large population of students who returned from the Vietnam War in the early 1970s, noted Jeanne Lewis, Director of Financial Aid. "Stockton's Vietnam-veteran students connected socially after encounters with each other in the Financial Aid Office. Shortly after, a very active student-veterans club was born."

The goals of the Board are to assist in the provision of guidance, advice and consultation in:

- Building and strengthening the educational and professional opportunities that Stockton provides to veteran and military personnel
- The inclusion of the local community in participation and support of Stockton's veteran programs.
- Outreach to the local and state-wide military organizations to participate and support Stockton's veteran programs.
- Overall, to create a supportive campus atmosphere and provide comprehensive services so that veterans can have a successful academic experience in college life at Stockton.

Patrick Shields, Coordinator of the Office of Veteran Affairs stated, "The Board represents a rich array of members who represent many facets of veteran support services and community development that will assist veterans to attain their educational aspirations." Students who are veterans or active service members may contact him in G-201 or by calling 609-652-4987.

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