

**THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

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Office of Public Relations  
Pomona, NJ 08240

***Three Stockton Faculty Members Named  
Political Engagement Scholars by Carnegie  
Foundation for Advancement of Teaching***

***Dr. Lisa Honaker, Professor Marilyn Vito, Dr. Tait Chirenje Receive  
Prestigious Designation***

**For Immediate Release**

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** –Three members of the Richard Stockton College of NJ faculty have been named Political Engagement Scholars for this and the next academic year by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Dr. Lisa Honaker of Freehold Twp., Associate Professor of British Literature; Professor Marilyn Vito of Egg Harbor Twp., Associate Professor of Accounting; and Dr. Tait Chirenje of Hammonton, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies; were nominated for the honor by Provost David Carr and selected for two year terms by the Carnegie Foundation. The three were chosen in recognition of their leadership roles in Stockton's Political Engagement Project.

"It is an honor for any faculty member to receive such national recognition," Provost Carr said. "To have three Stockton faculty members so honored is extraordinary and reflects the quality of teachers we have here at the College."

As Political Engagement Scholars, Honaker, Vito and Chirenje will expand on their work of helping faculty members incorporate political awareness and engagement activities into the college-wide curriculum. They will collaborate with their counterparts from seven other colleges nationwide who have also received this honor. Their work on political engagement activities at Stockton will continue to serve as a model for similar programs at the other colleges participating in PEP: Ferris State University, Illinois State University, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI), Kennesaw State University, Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, Sam Houston State University, and Western Kentucky University.

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Dr. Honaker has served as the founding director of a *New York Times* Odyssey Readership project, which led to her developing service-learning projects and eventually to her role as Team Leader of Stockton's Political Engagement Project. The Association of American Colleges and Universities has recently funded her \$10,000 grant proposal to sponsor an "Ordinary Lives of Engagement" series of theory-to-practice student activities that emphasize how ordinary citizens balance their work, families and civic responsibilities in a variety of ways.

Dr. Chirenje has been selected by the Ambassador William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy to co-author a policy paper regarding land use and conservation, an honor that carries the prestige of its pivotal role in guiding the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and a small honorarium of \$5,000 to fund the research underlying this study. This project arose from his faculty-student political engagement projects in funded student environmental audit teams. In addition, Dr. Chirenje has also recently been notified that his paper about these projects has been accepted for publication in the forthcoming *New York Times Monograph on Political Engagement*.

Professor Marilyn Vito has dedicated much of her scholarship to advancing the role of service learning in her classes, as well as to promoting the status of women as leaders via political engagement projects among her students. In addition to her service on the Political Engagement Project team at Stockton, Professor Vito has been elected President of the College Faculty Assembly, a shared governance body.

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is one of eight colleges and universities across the nation specifically chosen to participate in the project, directed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. PEP is a special initiative of the American Democracy Project, a multi-campus program that fosters civic engagement of undergraduates enrolled at member institutions of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

The work done by Honaker, Vito and Chirenje to help faculty incorporate political engagement topics into the co-curricular and extra-curricular events at Stockton continues to generate a positive reaction from both faculty and students. Professors and instructors are encouraged to engage students in activities and discussions that focus on how the political process impacts the particular subject of the class.

In addition to work with the co-curricular and extra-curricular events such as Constitution Day Celebrations, the College's Political Engagement Project is also involved in larger campus initiatives such as continued voter registration drives, involving faculty and students in community service projects and a bus trip to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia every semester.

For more information on the Political Engagement Project, visit <http://www.stockton.edu/PEP>.

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