



# STOCKTON

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

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## **FEDERAL FUNDS AWARDED TO STOCKTON-HAMMONTON**

**HAMMONTON** - U.S. Representative Frank A. LoBiondo (NJ-02), a member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, has announced that he helped to secure \$250,000 for Hammonton's ongoing efforts to revitalize its downtown. The funding is awarded to the Town of Hammonton and was included in the House-passed Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation-Housing & Urban Development Appropriations bill, which was approved on July 23rd. U.S. Senator Robert Menendez and U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg are also co-sponsoring similar appropriations requests in the United States Senate, on behalf of the Town of Hammonton.

The Town requested the special appropriation as the first step in the funding of the Stockton-Hammonton Project, a plan that will expand higher education in the region by establishing a center and/or campus of The Richard Stockton College in Downtown Hammonton, a busy transportation hub in the heart of Southern New Jersey. The request was made by Hammonton Mayor John DiDonato in March of this year. According to the proposal, the federal funding will assist in acquiring, renovating, and adaptively reusing several blighted former industrial sites that exist within the downtown area.

Stockton's President, Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. is excited about the educational and artistic opportunities in Hammonton and noted, "Hammonton is a vibrant community with a dynamic downtown that is rapidly developing as a center for arts and culture. Stockton is looking forward to partnering with Hammonton to support that development, enhance educational opportunities, and to play a significant role in the region."

Mayor DiDonato said, "Stockton's strong, committed partnership with Hammonton has helped lead to this first grant for the Stockton-Hammonton project. Thanks to Congressman LoBiondo and Senators Menendez and Lautenberg, this money will help offset the costs of acquiring a property with federal funds to continue to keep taxes low for Hammontonians." DiDonato went on to say, "This is another example of everyone thinking creatively and working hard to bring good things to Hammonton, while not overburdening the local taxpayers."

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According to the Federal Appropriations Request Form, which was submitted by the Town to LoBiondo, Menendez and Lautenberg: “Positive effects of rehabilitating these buildings and locating private business entities, along with a college campus (Stockton) and an arts museum in this area will be the creation and expansion of smaller ancillary businesses that will service the facilities and their users, including restaurants, professional offices and retail stores. Additional employment opportunities will be generated in these new and expanded businesses.”

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