



Stockton College Gala on April 27 Features Students Who Benefit from Scholarships

Entertainment, Auction, Dinner and Dancing at Revel in Atlantic City

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Galloway Township, NJ- Students who benefit from the funds raised will be among more than 670 guests celebrating at the 33rd Annual Stockton College Scholarship Benefit Gala on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at Revel in Atlantic City.

Emily Heerema, a candidate for a Master's of Science in Occupational Therapy, credits donors to the college's scholarship fund with helping her achieve her goals.

"The day I started graduate school at Stockton, my mother (Patricia Heerema) was diagnosed with breast cancer," Heerema explained recently. "Throughout all of this, she has inspired me to keep going. She's been fighting and is now recovered from breast cancer. Because of scholarship donors, I am able to continue with graduate school and become an occupational therapist." Heerema, of Bricktown in Ocean County, is also a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Development. Her mother will be joining her at the gala.

About 20 students who benefit from scholarships will be volunteering Saturday night. "It's a way to feel like they're giving back and showing appreciation for the scholarships they receive," said President Herman Saatkamp.

About 30 students from the college's Hospitality and Tourism Management program

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also will be helping, getting hands-on experience for their class.

The Stockton Benefit Gala has raised \$5 million for scholarships in the past 10 years. The college's first comprehensive fund-raising campaign reached its initial goal of \$20 million ahead of schedule last year – inspiring President Saatkamp to issue a challenge at last year's gala: "Let's do more."

President Saatkamp set a goal of raising another \$2 million specifically for scholarships by June 30, 2014.

"At last year's gala, community members, alumni and supporters made a huge difference, helping the foundation to develop scholarships for deserving students and supporting our comprehensive campaign," President Saatkamp said. "We need to continue to do even more for our students."

The evening's entertainment includes a big-name artist whose identity will not be announced until the night of the event, along with "Don't Call Me Francis," a high-energy dance band. Both acts are being provided by Revel. The Stockton Faculty Band will play during the cocktail hour, which begins at 6:30 p.m., and continue through dinner starting at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$225 per person for the event, which includes the cocktail reception, a silent auction and dinner, followed by entertainment and dancing in Revel's sixth-floor Ovation Hall.

The gala's honorary chairman is Dirk Schavemaker, senior vice president of resort operations at Revel. Co-chairs are John Schultz and Gary Hill, co-founders of the Schultz-Hill Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting southern New Jersey arts, history and education. Lisa Johnson, president of Lisa Johnson Communications, chairs the auction.

Top sponsors to date for the event include Revel Entertainment, Avalon Carpet, Tile and Flooring, IBEW Local 351, The Press of Atlantic City, Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, Burris Construction Company, Chartwells, Cooper Levenson, Credit Suisse Securities, Follett Higher Education Group, Horizon Eye Care, NBC 40, Dr. Jo Frances Stow, Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA), AtlantiCare, Azeez Foundation, Caesars Entertainment, Cape Resorts Group, Ciccone, Gotthold & Koseff CPAs, Tony and Fran Coppola, DLA Piper and the Honorable William L. Gormley, Fox Rothschild LLP, Just Four Wheels, H. Paxson & Michelle Keates, Kramer Beverage Company, Liberty Mutual, Marathon Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc., Metropolitan Business & Citizens Association (MBCA), Nelbud Services Group, Inc., Dean and Zoe Pappas, Pennoni Associates, Inc., Pepsi Beverage Company, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP,

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Quantum Capital Management, L.L.C, Ravenswood Winery, Resorts Casino Hotel, Shore Medical Center, SOSH Architects, South Jersey Industries, Steve & Cookie's By the Bay, Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club, Tropicana Casino and Resort, Trump Entertainment Resorts, U.A. Local Union 322 and the Yoh Foundation.

The foundation is seeking additional sponsorships and donations to the silent auction. To donate or become a sponsor, visit www.stockton.edu/gala.

For more information or to purchase tickets online, please visit www.stockton.edu/gala or call Dawn Hans at 609-652-4830.

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