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THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Governor's Task Force on Higher Education Earns High Grades from Stockton President

Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., Terms Report a National Model

For Immediate Release

Thursday, January 06, 2011

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Galloway Twp., NJ- Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., president of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, is pleased with his review of the January 4, 2011 report of the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education.

"Governor Christie, Governor Kean and the committee of the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education are to be commended for a comprehensive and forward-thinking approach to the challenges facing higher education in New Jersey," Dr. Saatkamp said.

On Tuesday, Governor Chris Christie signed two executive orders to facilitate the Task Force findings: one calling for the creation of a Higher Education Council and one to form a committee to develop recommendations for graduate-level medical education in the state.

Dr. Saatkamp praised the work of the Task Force, chaired by former Governor Tom Kean, calling it "a model approach for other states as our nation competes on a global basis in higher education."

According to Dr. Saatkamp, the Task Force report acknowledges and plans for much-needed changes following two decades of declines in state funding, increased demand for access, and serious capacity issues. "The (report) realistically incorporates the financial constraints our state is facing in the years ahead," he said. "(It) reinforces the importance of individual autonomy of the colleges and universities, and recognizes each institution's distinctiveness in structure, geography and mission."

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Stockton President Praises Task Force Report/ page 2

Dr. Saatkamp also praised the committee's recommendations to help finance new facilities; increase educational access through scholarship programs; and to eliminate caps on tuition. Furthermore, he said the plan would reduce red tape and state mandates.

"Many of the recommendations contained in the report are consistent with those made by the Presidents' Council of the state's colleges and universities, as well as those of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities," Saatkamp said. "The Task Force has mapped out a model approach for other states as our nation competes on a global basis in higher education," he concluded.

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