



Civil Rights Icon U.S. Rep. John Lewis to Speak At Stockton Graduation on Saturday, May 11

College to Graduate Record Number in 3 Ceremonies May 10-11

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Galloway, NJ – Democratic Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, a founder of the American Civil Rights movement, a noted author, a theologian and a political powerhouse, will speak at one of three graduation ceremonies to be held at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey May 10-11.

More than 1450 students are set to graduate, the largest number in Stockton's history.

Lewis is the keynote speaker at Stockton's 2 p.m. Baccalaureate Commencement on Saturday, May 11.

John G. Emge, executive director of the Atlantic and Cape May Counties United Way of Greater Philadelphia and South Jersey, will speak at the Doctoral and Master's Commencement program on Friday, May 10 at 4 p.m.

Kristen Grimm, president and founder of Spitfire Strategies, a leading national public relations firm that helps foundations and nonprofits create positive social change, will give the keynote address at Saturday's 10 a.m. Baccalaureate ceremony.

Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp will preside over all three graduation ceremonies at the Stockton Sports Center, known as Big Blue, on the college's Galloway campus.

U.S. Rep. Lewis, born to sharecroppers in 1940, was inspired by the activism of the Montgomery, Ala. bus boycott and the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which he heard on the radio, according to his congressional biography.

He went on to help found and chair the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which organized student sit-ins protesting racial discrimination. Lewis helped organize and spoke at the historic August 1963 March on Washington, D.C., where Dr. King gave his “I have a Dream” speech.

Lewis, who represents Georgia’s 5th Congressional District, authored “Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change” in 2012. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civil honor, presented to him by President Barack Obama.

Grimm’s Spitfire Strategies has worked with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, AARP, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Brookings Institution, among others. Prior to launching Spitfire, Grimm worked as a fellow at the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation to ban landmines, reform the death penalty and criminal justice systems, and reduce the threat of nuclear war, according to her online biography.

Emge, who has 28 years of experience with the United Way, is also a member of the boards of the Greater Atlantic City Chamber and the Electronic Medical Records Exchange of South Jersey, whose mission is to improve patient care.

Approximately 650 students will receive bachelor’s degrees from the Schools of Arts and Humanities, Business, Education, General Studies and Health Sciences on Saturday morning.

Some 662 students from the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, will graduate Saturday afternoon.

Stockton will award approximately 140 Master’s and Doctoral degrees in Friday’s 4 p.m. ceremony, only the second year in which the college has conferred doctoral and master’s degrees.

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