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THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton Professor Elected President of American Association of Suicidology

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Galloway Township, NJ- Dr. David Lester, distinguished professor of psychology at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, has been elected president of the American Association of Suicidology (AAS).

Lester has been involved in suicidology since 1964 and has attended the American Association of Suicidology's annual meetings since 1969. Lester is known as one of the most prolific psychologists in the world for his publication record of more than 2,500 notes, articles and books on suicide. He has collaborated with fellow experts from Austria to Zimbabwe.

The American Association of Suicidology is a membership organization dedicated to the advancement of efforts to prevent suicide through research, education and training, the development of standards and resources, and survivor support services.

During his two-year term as president, Lester will be responsible for writing columns in the Association's newsletter, organizing two conferences and serving on various award nomination committees.

Lester explained, "Throughout my career, I have collaborated with those who have lost loved ones to suicide. One of my students at Stockton lost her sister to suicide and shared her sister's diary with me."

After reading and analyzing the diary, Lester published a book titled *Katie's Diary: Unlocking the Mystery of a Suicide*.

Lester is a leading expert on telephone counseling and is currently co-editing the third edition of *Crisis Intervention and Counseling by Telephone* with James Rogers. The book will be published by Charles C. Thomas.

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So far this year, Lester has written 30 articles on suicide. This spring, he will give a talk at the opening ceremonies of the Suicide Research Unit at Shandong University in Jinan, People's Republic of China.

Lester currently resides in the Blackwood section of Gloucester Township with his wife, Bijou Yang, who is a professor of economics at Drexel University and also a suicidologist.

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