

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Community Engagement Awards to be Presented During 7<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Day of Service

Stockton College to Partner with Local Organizations for Community Service Projects on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Martin Luther King Holiday

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will continue its tradition of starting the new semester with a daylong program of community service activities prior to the first day of classes. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service will take place **Monday, January 17, 2011.**

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., federal holiday, which was signed into law by former President Ronald Reagan in 1983 and first observed in 1986. The federal legislation designating the federal holiday as a national day of service was signed by former President Bill Clinton in 1994.

Breakfast and pre-registration for Stockton College's Day of Service volunteers will take place at 8:30 a.m. in the College's I-Wing Gymnasium. Onsite registration will follow at 9:00 a.m.

The opening of the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. with speeches delivered by Stockton President Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., and Dr. Reva Curry, executive director of community partnerships.

Before the volunteers embark on their service projects, which take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., this year's Community Engagement Awards will be presented.

This year's winners are as follows:

- **Staff Member:** Jose Santana; Painter; resident of Mays Landing
- **Faculty Member:** Dr. Diane Falk; professor of social work; resident of Mays Landing
- **Student:** Esther Grace Smith; junior business major; resident of Bridgeton
- **Student Organization:** Student Veterans Organization

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Tara Ronda, service learning coordinator, said, "Each year since 2007, the MLK Day of Service Planning Committee has asked members of the Stockton community to nominate students, staff members and faculty with exceptional records of community service for the Stockton College Community Engagement Award."

The College will be sending groups of students, faculty and staff to volunteer at more than a dozen local organizations. Participating organizations include Absecon Manor Nursing Home, African-American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, Atlantic County Office of Emergency Preparedness, Covenant House, Gilda's Club South Jersey and the Arc of Atlantic County.

A number of Day of Service activities will also take place on campus and are open to the public. Circle K, a student organization, will be making teddy bears and cards to send to hospitalized children; Stockton's new violence prevention group, the Green Dot Project, will be making denim ribbons to raise awareness on violence for the upcoming Wear Denim Day in April; Books Without Borders, a student organization, will be sorting and packing books to ship to less-privileged children overseas; staff members from Samaritan Hospice will be writing and decorating Valentine's Day cards for hospice patients throughout South Jersey; and the Atlantic County Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will host a pillow party, where volunteers will sew pillows for residents of local assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

President Saatkamp said, "MLK Day of Service gives our students the opportunity to start off the New Year and the new semester by giving back to the community. It has been very rewarding to watch the program succeed and attract more and more students each year. This year, we expect more than 250 students to participate."

For more information on Stockton's Day of Service, visit [www.stockton.edu](http://www.stockton.edu) and click on Day of Service under "Events."

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