

Stockton University Welcomes New Class During Move-In Day

Approximately 1,145 New Freshmen Make Up Second-Largest Class

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Galloway Township, NJ – Blue and gold letters spelling “Welcome Stockton” were painted on the window panes of Housing Three on Move-In Day at Stockton University. Below the greeting, new freshman students joined by family and friends waited in a check-in line to receive room keys to unlock their new homes away from home.

Approximately 1,145 new freshmen make up the second-largest incoming class after last year’s record high enrollment. More than 3,000 students reside in University housing, including in the apartment complexes, residence halls and at Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club in Galloway.

Upperclassmen volunteers wearing the osprey mascot on their t-shirts wheeled blue carts filled to the brim with bedding, clothing, food, and the essentials for campus life, as they guided students to their rooms. Parents, siblings and friends pitched in, too.

Roommates Hannah Taglang and Jocelyn Nieves both grew up in Collingswood, NJ and went to the same high school, but they just met today.

Nieves said that nursing runs in her family, but she wants to do something a little bit different. She came to Stockton for the Physical Therapy program.

Taglang came to Stockton for basketball tournaments in high school and liked the campus.

The door to their room was already decorated with their names by the resident assistant (RA) on their floors. If they have questions or want to know what events are happening on campus, they can go down the hallway to their RA.

Lauren Baghsarian, a junior Social Work major and an RA from Farmingdale, NJ, had a sign outside her room that said, “Welcome to your new home.”

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Over the summer, Baghsarian interned for the advocacy group Circle of Friends for American Veterans through the Washington Internship Program. Her floor was decorated with patriotic streamers and photographs she captured during her internship.

Baghsarian described her RA role as “being a mentor and helping [students] in any way I can. I’m really excited for them to see the floor.”

Julie Eller, a junior Public Health major and an RA from Caldwell, NJ, said her best advice to new students is to “smile when you walk down the hallway because it makes a friendlier environment.”

Eller’s door has a sign on the outside that says, “Feel free to knock if you have any questions.”

Across the courtyard, new freshman Nick Lang, of Bergenfield, NJ, got help from his parents and brother as he unpacked and set up his room. He plans to double-major in Marine Science and Mathematics and has already met some of the science professors.

During his senior year at Bergen County Academies, Lang interned for The River Project in New York where he concentrated on restoration of the Hudson River. He looks forward to utilizing Stockton’s Marine Science and Environmental Field Station in Port Republic.

A few rooms away, Jerry Perez, of West New York, NJ, lined up his sneakers on top of a closet. He plans to use them on Stockton’s basketball courts during intramurals. Perez said he “feels well prepared” for his classes, which begin Sept. 2, because he completed Stockton’s Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program over the summer.

Rachel Zak, a junior Health Sciences major from Jackson, NJ, volunteered on the move-in team with members of her sorority, Tri Delta. She joked that her advice to new students is to pack light.

Alumni left well wishes to the new students in Facebook comments on the University’s page. “I wish I was starting college as a freshman again. Moving in for the first time has to be one of the best times in life,” wrote Carl Balazs Koves.

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