

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## **Christine Todd Whitman, Nuclear Exec Discuss Future of Nuclear Energy**

Forum Hosted by William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton  
College of NJ

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

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** Nuclear power should be part of the “energy portfolio” as the nation and world grapple with questions of increasing demand and dwindling supply, according to former New Jersey governor Christine Todd Whitman and William Levis, president of a major nuclear utility.

The opinions were shared Thursday night at an event titled “Nuclear Power in our Future,” part of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy Lecture Series. The talk took place at the Carnegie Library Center in Atlantic City, satellite center of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

An “energy portfolio” is analogous to one in finances in which diversified aspects, such as nuclear, wind, solar, geothermal, coal, gas and electricity are combined to meet the consumers’ rising demand.

“Nobody is saying nuclear is the only answer,” said Whitman, who was a member of President George W. Bush’s cabinet as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. “What we are saying is it can be part of the answer.”

Levis, president and chief operating officer of PSEG Nuclear, said that numerous public opinion surveys have shown rising acceptance of nuclear power plants. “We (the United States) were always good at building them; we weren’t always so good at running them. Now that we have become good at running them, the safety record of these facilities has been exceptional.”

Whitman added that public opinion regarding nuclear power plants rise in favorability the closer one lives to an actual plant. She added that her vacation home in Florida is located adjacent to a proposed site of a nuclear plant and that she is in favor of it. In addition to helping to meet a demand which is anticipated to rise exponentially in the next 30 years, both panelists noted that nuclear is available on demand 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, unlike solar and wind, and has a lower cost to deliver to the end-user.

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As for security concerns Levis encouraged audience members to visit one of his company's facilities. "Even prior to 9/11, our security measures were in place and very strict. We take security very seriously, Levis said.

"Just the fact that we are talking about nuclear energy as part of our future speaks to the positive strides we have made in safety and public perception," Levis said. "It is something I never would have envisioned as recently as 10 years ago," he said.

The event was moderated by Ed Rodger, award-winning environmental reporter and producer at New Jersey Network.

The Hughes Center for Public Policy's Lecture Series examines major contemporary issues and advocates public discussion and dialog.



**Photo Caption:** Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp Jr., (from left) moderator Ed Rodger, former Governor Christine Todd Whitman, William Levis, President, PSEG Power, Ambassador William J. Hughes and former Sen. William Gormley at Hughes Center for Public Policy Lecture Series event on the future of nuclear energy on Thursday.

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