



## **Paul Lyons Memorial Lecture Brings Founding Director of New Smithsonian Museum to Stockton**

Lonnie G. Bunch, III to Speak on March 26 on Challenges of Building  
New National Museum on African American History and Culture

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will remember Distinguished Professor Paul Lyons by bringing Lonnie G. Bunch, III, founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, to campus for the fourth annual Paul Lyons Memorial Lecture.

Each year, the memorial lecture series features a leading scholar in American studies, an area in which Lyons focused much of his work. This year's lecture, titled, "The Challenge of Building a National Museum," will take place on **Wednesday, March 26, 2014** at 6 p.m. in the Campus Center Theater, located on the college's main Galloway campus.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, set to open next year, will occupy the last available space on the National Mall, near the National Museum of American History and the Washington Monument. In his lecture, Bunch will explain the back story behind the institution's creation, offering key insights into both museum and racial politics and the intersections between the two. He will also address the particular issues that museums face as they endeavor to engage 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences in studying the past.

"We are especially pleased to have Lonnie Bunch join us this semester, as a number of our Master of Arts in American Studies (MAAS) students learn about museum studies in a master's course taught by General Studies Dean Robert Gregg and Professor Michelle McDonald," said Dr. Sharon Musher, associate professor of History and director of the American Studies program. "The class is currently developing an exhibit drawing on oral histories, photographs and material culture that focuses on New Jersey's contributions to the Civil Rights Movement," Musher said.

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The exhibit is expected to be completed in the fall and will be displayed at the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, located inside the Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton College in Atlantic City.

Bunch's nearly 30-year career in the museum field spans four decades. The Newark, NJ native was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Commission for the Preservation of the White House in 2002 and reappointed by President Barack Obama in 2009. In 2005, he was named one of the 100 most influential museum professionals of the century by the American Association of Museums and in 2009, Ebony Magazine named him one of its 150 most influential African Americans. He is a widely published author and has written on topics ranging from the black military experience, the American presidency and all black towns in the American west to diversity in museum management and the impact of funding and politics on American museums.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to learn from Lonnie Bunch about his own curatorial experiences and the debates that surround the creation of individual exhibits as well as national museums. And we look forward to ongoing discussions about museum politics and race in our American Studies program," said Musher.

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