



Stockton Students in Competition to Get Youth Involved on Fiscal Issues, National Debt

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Contact: Maryjane Briant
News and Media Relations Director
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4593

Galloway Township, NJ - Students at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will again take part in a nationwide competition designed to inform students about the long- and short-term impacts the federal debt will have on their lives - and to get them to take action.

"It's Up to Us" pits students from colleges and universities across the nation against each other for a \$10,000 top prize. The goal is to design and run the most thought-provoking, fun, and effective campaign, activating a large portion of the student body.

This is the second year in which Stockton students are competing and the competition has almost doubled - from 23 schools last year to 44 schools, including Yale University, Carnegie Mellon and University of California, Berkeley.

"We learned a lot from last year's campaign, and are excited about our performance this year," said team leader Angelo Bechara, a sophomore from Egg Harbor Township who is double majoring in Political Science and French.

The other core team members are: Louis Chevere, of Galloway, a senior Economics major; Maryam Sarhan, of Somers Point, a sophomore majoring in Political Science with a pre-law concentration; Brad Ross, of Westfield, a senior majoring in Sustainability and Victoria Muraoka, of Millville, a freshman Psychology major.

At Stockton, the campaign will run from Jan. 25-Feb. 20 in various locations on campus. Each team, including Stockton's, receives \$1,500 in funds to run a four-to-six week campaign.

The main event will be "My Two Cents Day," an all-day event on **Thursday, Feb. 12** in the Grand Hall of the Campus Center, with everyone welcome to participate, Bechara said. Participants "can write down their 'two cents' on our huge graffiti wall, which we will take with us to Congressman Frank LoBiondo's office," he explained.

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Students will be invited to have their photos taken in a photo booth provided by Starshield Entertainment, which will be tweeted as part of the national competition. Organizers will be tracking the school with the most tweets and adding to the team's points, Bechara said.

The day will also include games, giveaways, trivia quizzes, special appearances and live performances.

The campaign is sponsored by the Clinton Global Initiative, the Peter G. Peterson Foundation and Net Impact, a nonprofit with over 50,000 students and professionals in 300 chapters aiming "to drive transformational change in the workplace and world."

The winning team will be recognized by President Clinton at the 2015 Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U). For more information, visit itsuptous.org # # #