

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton's Council of Black Faculty and Staff to Honor Jacobson, Harris, Curry and Cranmer

30th Annual Event Takes Place Nov. 10

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Council of Black Faculty and Staff (CBFS) will honor four outstanding individuals on Thursday Nov. 10, 2011, when the organization celebrates its 30th Anniversary of the Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner and Dance. The event takes place at the Carriage House in Galloway, beginning with a 6 p.m. cocktail reception, dinner and awards program beginning at 7 p.m., followed by entertainment and dancing at 9 p.m.

"It is especially fitting that we are celebrating our 30th anniversary of this event at the same time the College is marking its 40th Anniversary of Teaching," said CBFS President Patricia W. Collins. This dinner has become one of our most eagerly anticipated events. It is a social evening with a greater meaning: raising scholarship funding for deserving Stockton students."

Collins said to date the Council Dinner has raised in excess of \$234,000 to benefit the Council's scholarship endowment. "This year's event promises to be one of our best ever, in keeping with the occasion of three decades of service to the Stockton community," Collins said. "This year's honorees are reflective of the level of excellence the College and Council have achieved over the years."

Michael Jacobson, Esq., attorney with the firm Cooper Levenson and longtime member and former Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey; and Ms. Patti Harris, Founder of Atlantic City Dance Theatre and the Atlantic City School of Cultural Learning, are the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Dr. Reva Curry, Executive Director of Community Partnerships at the College will receive the

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Stockton Council Dinner/page 2

Merit Award. The Distinguished Stockton Alumnus honor is being presented to Mr. Eugene "Gene" Cranmer, a member of Stockton's graduating class of 1993 and a Professional Services Specialist at the College.

Tickets for the event are still available and donations to the Council's Scholarship Fund are gratefully accepted. Tickets are \$85 per person, or a table of 10 for \$850. Checks should be made payable to the RSC Foundation (please write CBFS on the check memo line) or purchase tickets on-line at www.stockton.edu (type key words black council into the search engine).

Honorary Chair for the event is Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Provost and Executive Vice President of the College. The awards dinner Planning Committee is co-chaired by Patricia W. Collins and Yubi Pena; members include Diane L. Epps, Lonnie Folks, Peg Fiore, Mel Gregory, Denise S. Green, Jessica Grullon, Dr. Laurie Sanderson and De Mozelle-Wright.

About the honorees:

Michael Jacobson, Esq., is the longest-serving member of Stockton's Board of Trustees, having served for more than a quarter century. He joined the Board in 1985 and was Chair twice, from 2001 to 2004 and from 1994 to 1996. One of the region's most prominent attorneys, he is senior partner in the Cooper Levenson firm in Atlantic City and a member of the Bar Associations of New Jersey, Atlantic County and Texas. An active supporter of community organizations, he is former president of Temple Emeth Shalom, Exchange Club of Atlantic City and the Atlantic City Jaycees. He is a graduate of Atlantic City High School, Temple University, attended American University's Graduate School of Government and graduated from Baylor University's School of Law.

Patti Harris is Executive Director and Founder of Atlantic City Dance Theatre Center of Cultural Learning, Inc., and is a writer, producer, director, choreographer, and dance educator. In a larger sense, she is an Atlantic City icon, having danced at the famous Club Harlem and advanced as a leading voice and advocate for the performing arts in the region. Her professional resume includes Broadway hits such as "Hello Dolly" and "Purlie", off-Broadway, television commercials, musical theatre and dance performances. Among her goals are to encourage personal achievement and promote physical development of all youth. She has been the recipient of more than 25 professional and civic awards including induction in the Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Reva Curry has coordinated and guided numerous community partnerships at Stockton, including the Community Partnership Workgroup whose successful application resulted in the prestigious community engagement function of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The group's pilot survey of community partnerships became a part of Stockton's 2020 Strategic Plan. Dr. Curry has worked with Professor Joseph Rubenstein to launch the Stockton Center for Community Schools, which has to date forged over 25 community partnerships in Atlantic City and the region. Homework assistance and mentoring programs,

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Stockton Council Dinner/page 3

support for programming at the Atlantic City Boys and Girls Club, establishment of urban gardens at multiple sites in Atlantic City and the design of anti-bullying programs at area schools are just a few examples of her work.

A specialist in the Office of Computer and Telecommunications at Stockton for 31 years, Eugene "Gene" Cranmer began his Stockton career in the Library in 1979 and his career with the State of New Jersey two years earlier as an employee of the Division of Youth and Family Services. Having first earned an A.A. degree from Ocean County College, he completed his B.A. in Sociology at Stockton in 1993. He is co-founder and sponsor of the Stockton Employees Memorial Scholarship Fund, member of the Council of Black Faculty and Staff, Stockton Alumni Association, the Stockton Christian Fellowship and a volunteer at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and at College graduations. A strong advocate for students' rights he is co-advisor of the student club Students Aiming for Excellence and has mentored numerous successful Stockton students over the years.

"This year's honorees symbolize what the Council's fundraising efforts are all about," Collins said. "We are looking forward to having a lot of fun on Nov. 10 to celebrate their contributions and the positive effect they have had on our students and community."

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