

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton Responds to State Budget Cuts through Increased Student Aid

Scholarship Program Increases to \$13.5 million

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Galloway Township, NJ- "Keeping higher education accessible to New Jersey students is the key to New Jersey's future," stated Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., President of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. "We are significantly increasing our student merit and need-based scholarships from the current level of \$11.7 million to \$13.5 million."

Dr. Saatkamp noted the current New Jersey budget cuts funds for the 2011-2012 academic years in tuition aid grants (TAG) and the Equal Opportunity Fund (EOF). "With the fundraising help of the Stockton College Foundation, the College is committed to providing the necessary funding required to keep our neediest students in school. We have accepted the largest freshman class ever, more than 900 students, as we continue to address the statewide shortage of space for New Jersey students. At the same time, applications have risen to an all-time high, making this year's freshman class one of our most qualified," he added.

In addition to the loss of funding for student aid, the College is also dealing with a significant unfunded mandate: a \$6.2 million increase in state-negotiated salaries for its faculty and staff in bargaining units. These unfunded salary increases were negotiated by the state in fiscal year 2011 (FY 11) and were given at appropriate intervals throughout FY 11. Even without cost-of-living increases for FY 12 there is a \$6.2 million increase over the two-year period in the cost of salaries for faculty and staff in bargaining units. The College is still required to meet these contractual commitments.

This follows on the heels of more than a decade of declining state support for higher education. To accommodate this and other rising expenses, the Board of Trustees announced its tuition and fee schedule for the 2011-2012 academic year at its July 6 meeting. The College will increase tuition by 5 percent and fees by 5 percent.

In-state, undergraduate tuition for a full-time student (flat rate for 12-20 credit hours per semester) will increase \$183.73, from \$3,674.61 to \$3,858.34. Educational and general fees will increase \$80.29, from \$1,605.76 to \$1,686.05. Other fees driven by market considerations will

increase by varying amounts. Facilities fees will increase by 5%, housing rates will increase an average of 3%, and meal plan rates will also increase by 4%.

For a typical incoming freshman student, the total cost of tuition, fees, room and board will increase by 3.5%, from \$21,404.26 in the academic year of 2010-2011 to \$22,159.60 in the academic year of 2011-2012.

“Although it is never pleasant to announce tuition and fee increases, Stockton is still an exceptional value,” Dr. Saatkamp said. “Stockton remains in the mid-range of tuition and fees among the nine state colleges,” Dr. Saatkamp said, and we have managed to keep these increases slight, without cuts in services, faculty or staff.”

He attributed this to sound investment and increased efficiencies of operation. These include one of the nation’s largest geothermal heating and cooling systems for the physical plant, the addition of solar panels including of the first and largest solar carports at a college in the United States, and energy-efficient building practices in the Campus Center, F. Wing and student residence halls and a state-of-the-art Unified Science Center under construction.

“We are committed to taking the steps necessary to maintain Stockton as New Jersey’s distinctive public college,” said Dr. Saatkamp.