



Stockton College Receives Donation of Buildings and Grounds of Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage

Museum Founder Michael Azeez, Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp Sign Pact that adds to \$5 Million Gift to College

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey today formalized its \$5 million donation from Michael Azeez, founder of The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage, adding value to the largest gift in the history of the College.

The donation was consummated Monday at a 1:30 p.m. signing ceremony during which Mr. Azeez turned over ownership of the Woodbine, NJ-based Museum, auxiliary buildings, grounds and a new 2,825-square ft., state-of-the-art building with two classrooms.

In October, 2011, the College announced that Mr. Azeez, a prominent businessman, civic leader and founder of the Museum had donated \$5 million to the College, as well as the museum itself. The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage is housed in the historic Woodbine Brotherhood Synagogue, built by its congregation in 1893.

Mr. Azeez assumed control of the property in 2001 and spent several years restoring the interior, exterior and grounds of the building, which is a National Historic Landmark. He opened a museum of local history on the site and named it in honor of his late father Sam, a successful entrepreneur who grew up in Woodbine.

The Museum is a teaching center focusing on perpetuating the history of the wave of Russian Jewish immigration to the area in the late 19th century, and working for the reduction of prejudice.

The new \$1.1 million addition will provide two state of the art classrooms and two offices. The buildings sit on a 1.04 acre parcel at 630 Washington Avenue in the Cape May County municipality. Stockton officials expect certificates of occupancy to be issued very soon, and the building will open in January.

Regular classes are currently scheduled for the fall semester 2013, and professional development courses and seminars will be offered beginning in the spring term.

“I wish for the Museum’s efforts to continue,” Mr. Azeez said at the time of the donation. “There exists a synergy between the Museums. Stockton’s General Studies Program, its Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, and its community partnerships. This collaboration enables the Museum to advance its goals accessibility and visibility.”

Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp said the \$5 million gift would be used to establish the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage Endowment fund to perpetuate the facility’s activities, support its ongoing operation and maintenance for the continuation of its mission.

“Stockton is gratified and humbled by the trust Michael has placed in the College, and we are pleased to partner with Woodbine in building a satellite campus,” Dr. Saatkamp said.

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