

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Charter Faculty Member Robert Helsabeck Receives Honors from Richard Stockton College Board of Trustees to Mark Retirement

Longtime Professor Also Served Twice as Academic Dean

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For Immediate Release

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Contact: Tim Kelly
Office of Public Relations
Galloway Township, NJ 08240
Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4950

Galloway Township, NJ – Robert Helsabeck, a charter member of the faculty at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, was honored by the College today in recognition of his four decades of service. Dr. Helsabeck, Professor of Sociology in the School of Social and Behavioral Science, recently announced plans to retire following completion of the 2011-2012 academic year.

President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. and the Board of Trustees formally recognized Dr. Helsabeck's many contributions and presented him with a Special Recognition Award at the regular board meeting.

"Bob Helsabeck is one of our most accomplished and respected faculty members and is truly deserving of this recognition," Dr. Saatkamp said. "We have an outstanding faculty and one of our strongest groups of incoming faculty this year. Bob helped set the high standard we have for teaching and learning, which, in turn, greatly benefits our students."

In addition to his many years as a Stockton faculty member, Dr. Helsabeck served two three-year terms as dean of general studies.

He came to Stockton for the start of classes in the fall semester of 1971, when they were held in the Mayflower Hotel on the Atlantic City Boardwalk. The College moved to its present campus in Galloway Twp. in the spring semester that academic year. Previously he was an administrator and faculty member at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. He came to Stockton as a

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Helsabeck honored/ page 2

researcher in collegiate governance and continued that interest throughout his career at the College. He took a leave of absence in his second year to take an appointment at the University of California at Berkeley's Research and Development Center for Higher Education. While there, he converted his dissertation into a book on collective decision-making in higher education, and conducted other research.

At Stockton, he was elected as the first pro-tem moderator of the Faculty Meeting and was twice elected to terms as moderator of the Faculty Assembly. In 2008, he was selected for a special task force on faculty governance which led to the establishment of a Faculty Senate. He recently completed a two-year term as the Senate's first president.

During a second leave of absence, Dr. Helsabeck traveled to the Philippines for an appointment as visiting professor at Silliman University for the study of community justice. With the exception of his leaves of absence, he has served at Stockton continuously since 1971.

While in the role of Dean of General Studies, Dr. Helsabeck established the Freshman Seminar program which continues today. As a faculty member he chaired the General Studies Committee which led to reforms in the General Studies curriculum.

"Bob is an extraordinary colleague," said Michael Frank, Professor of Psychology. "He is always a gentleman and a complex man with far-reaching ideas. He will truly be missed."

An expert on conflict resolution, Dr. Helsabeck wrote the state grant and served as founding chair of the Community Justice Center, (a dispute settlement service); served as moderator for community disputes and divorce settlements; served on the Governor's Advisory Board for the NJ Institute on Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies and served on a Board of the West Jersey Presbytery on Conflict Resolution. The New Jersey Supreme Court appointed him to a four-year term as Fee Arbiter and a four-year term as a member of the Ethics Committee for the Bar.

Other boards and affiliations included service with Family Services Association, United Way of Camden County, and Criminal Justice Planning of Atlantic County. He was named Volunteer of the Year for Atlantic County. Later he was selected as one of the New Jersey Governor's representatives to the White House Conference on Families, during the Jimmy Carter administration.

He is the author of three books and many papers and articles on conflict resolution, general education, academic advising, urban development and the elderly and religious beliefs among the clergy and laity.

Dr. Helsabeck comes from a family of educators. His father, Fred Helsabeck was President of Culver-Stockton College in Missouri and his mother, Emily, was a teacher, as was his sister Jane. His brother, Fried Jr., was a former math professor and brother Hank was a professor and dean.

Born in Radford, Virginia, Dr. Helsabeck grew up in Roanoke and Lynchburg Virginia. He currently lives in Absecon, NJ with his wife, Vicky, holder of a PhD. in Psycholinguistics (language acquisition) and a speech pathologist.

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