Gov. Chris Christie joins President Herman Saatkamp, Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks, Student Senate President Carl Archut Jr. and Stockton’s Board of Trustees in breaking ground for a $28.62 million expansion that will nearly double the size of the Unified Science Center on June 5.

Gov. Christie noted that his administration had prioritized investing in higher education, and said a total of $1.2 billion, including $750,000 from the Building Our Future bond act approved by voters in 2012, will be used for public colleges.

He said it was “very unfortunate that the state had waited 25 years to contribute” funding for higher education construction, but added: “The most important thing is we’re actually doing things…to be able to give (students) a world-class education.”

He called Stockton’s new building, expected to open in Spring 2017, “an investment in our young men and women” and in the state’s economy.

Gov. Christie said he knew Stockton would staff the facility with “top-notch faculty” and ensure that students get an excellent education “to help our state to create a lasting legacy.”

The 54,000-square-foot expansion project, referred to as the Unified Science Center² (“Unified Science Center Squared”) to acknowledge its emphasis on science and math, will be supported by $21.465 million in funding from the Building Our Future Bond Act. The bond act requires that the college pay 25 percent, or $7.155 million of the total $28.62 million cost.

The three-story expansion will include labs for teaching and research, a greenhouse, computer labs, faculty offices and a vivarium.

Secretary of Higher Education Hendricks said, “I am inspired by the new building for the Unified Science Center. It will establish Stockton as a center of excellence for science education. Whether they study Physics, Environmental Science, Marine Science, or Anatomy and Physiology, students at Stockton receive a world-class preparation for the high-demand science fields that are so important to the state and national economy.”
Stockton Poll Finds NJ Residents Say College is Worth The Cost

The Stockton Polling Institute surveyed over 800 New Jersey adults for the Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance (HESIG) project and found 90 percent of the participants who have attended college say that higher education is worth the cost. Residents link college opportunity directly to the ability to find jobs, develop careers, and to improve the quality of life for families.

“New Jerseyans see the state’s colleges and universities as having high quality, as well as high value, even with their consistent concerns about college affordability,” stated Darryl G. Greer, Ph.D., Senior Fellow for Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance.

“However, they have specific ideas about what students and colleges need to do to increase value—principally, to partner with business to create more practical in-college experiences, such as internships,” said Dr. Greer.

The study confirmed advice from two executive roundtables held earlier this year at Stockton and New Jersey City University.

Seventy-seven percent of respondents said NJ colleges are good or excellent, and 86 percent said four-year colleges are seen as having the highest quality, contrasted to two-year and online colleges. The top answers for the best way to increase college value were for colleges to provide more practical experiences, such as internships (33 percent); and for students to find more work and internship experiences (29 percent).

The poll reinforced the importance of higher order skills and abilities, as valued outcomes of a college experience. Stockton faculty has gained national attention in defining 10 “College Essential Learning Outcomes (ELO’s),” including communications, critical thinking, ethical and quantitative reasoning, global awareness, and teamwork/collaboration.

Dr. Greer indicated that next steps will include making specific policy recommendations to colleges, Trenton policy makers, and business leaders about achieving the goals of greater college access, affordability, and completion, especially for New Jersey’s emerging population; as well as increasing the state’s participation in the national discussion of these issues.

“This study gives our citizens, and policy makers, significant positive feedback and hope for the future of college opportunity in the Garden State. It confirms prior Stockton research, and recent national studies by Pew, Gallup and others, that citizens view college opportunity as key to individual prosperity. And it gives us a deeper understanding of what needs to be done to make college more valuable in serving individual and state needs,” explained Dr. Greer.

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) Center for Advocacy and Philanthropy (www.ets.org) provided grant support of the roundtables and the poll, as part of “Finding Solutions, Building Public Trust in An Era of Change.”

Stockton CPSS Hosts Inaugural Conference on Character & Ethics

The Stockton Center for Public Safety and Security (CPSS), a center housed in Continuing Studies under Director Robert McNeill, recently hosted the inaugural New Jersey Conference: Character, Ethics, Leadership in the Campus Center Theatre. Over 250 law enforcement personnel attended the event, including local, county, state, and federal officials. Various agencies, as well as senior-level executives from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and FBI, filled the auditorium to capacity.

The event aimed to begin the process of inspiring New Jersey to a shared vision of the “Business of Ethical Leadership,” and covered topics including individual character, a personal ethics code, and leadership characteristics.

Lieut. General Robert L. Caslen, Jr., superintendent, United States Military Academy at West Point, gave the keynote address, highlighting the necessity of ethical leaders to embody honor, respect, servant leadership, and integrity.

“The presentations were thought provoking and generated a considerable amount of discussion among the attendees that is likely to continue into the future,” McNeill said.

The conference will be followed-up by a series of certification courses offered by the CPSS beginning Fall 2014.

Michele Hewitt, administrative assistant to the CPSS, Mariah Duffey, professional services specialist in Continuing Studies, and Dawn Marshall, senior clerk typist, helped organize the event.
**Stockton Co-Sponsors Statewide Youth Development Forum**

The mayors of Atlantic City and Pleasantville joined Acting Attorney Gen. John Hoffman, educators from Stockton and others June 9 in outlining “what works and what doesn’t work” in a statewide effort to help young people from areas of high unemployment and crime succeed. “Building a Community of Learning and Practice” was co-sponsored by Stockton and the state Attorney General’s Office and drew hundreds of participants from agencies around the state.

“These are not problems that we can arrest our way out of,” said Hoffman, referencing societal obstacles such as gang activity, lack of jobs and elevated high school dropout rates.

He said since 2009, the state has created six Municipal Planning Boards throughout New Jersey: Atlantic City-Pleasantville, Cumberland County (including Vineland, Millville and Bridgeton), Newark, Trenton, Camden and Asbury Park.

Pleasantville Mayor Jesse Tweedle said the most frustrating part of his job is “seeing the potential in our youth and not being able to develop their god-given talent.”

He cited the Mayor’s Book Club program as an example of an impactful partnership which encourages first graders to love reading in hopes to better their chances for success in the future.

Stockton partnered with mayors in six South Jersey towns and their elementary schools including Pleasantville this year, to focus parents, students and their first grade teachers on reading more books. Pleasantville Elementary School is slated to receive $1,000 from the League of Municipalities Education Foundation, as the first graders read over 1,000 books this spring.

Stockton’s role in the Atlantic City-Pleasantville Municipal Planning Board includes providing data-driven research and analysis, so towns can target the right problems and develop solutions.

Dr. Israel Posner, executive director of Stockton’s Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism, said it’s necessary to connect the “evidence-based approach and the faith-based approach,” focusing not only on “what to do,” and “how to do it,” but on “why.”

The Stockton Center for Community Engagement (SCCE) has been helping towns obtain funds and rebuild after natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy, and also delivers nutritious meals door-to-door in partnership with Atlantic City schools, said Dr. Reva Curry, executive director.

SCCE provides help with homework, mentoring, SAT prep and anti-bullying programs, to support students’ development in Atlantic City and Pleasantville and build their aspirations.

And it’s working, Dr. Curry said. Attendance is up, lateness is down, math and reading skills are improving among students in the programs.

Dr. Marissa Levy, associate professor of Criminal Justice, said Stockton provided community leaders in Atlantic City and Pleasantville with statistics from the U.S. Census, the Uniform Crime Report, the Department of Education, the Atlantic City Police Department and other sources, to help them determine what each area’s biggest problems were and then develop solutions.

---

**Economic & Financial Literacy Center Hosts Stock Market Game**

The Stockton Center for Economic & Financial Literacy hosted the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Foundation’s Southern New Jersey Stock Market Game and InvestWrite competition award ceremony and luncheon on June 4. About half the state’s counties were represented in the southern division.

Dr. Deborah Figart, professor of Education and Economics and director of Stockton’s Center for Economic & Financial Literacy, was the keynote speaker.

The InvestWrite competition challenges 4th-12th graders to analyze investments and recommend portfolio allocations targeting financial goals, according to sponsors the SIFMA Foundation and McGraw Hill Financial. Some 20,000 students nationwide take the InvestWrite challenge each year, developing the personal financial savvy needed to make real-world financial decisions.
Dr. Galantino Facilitates S. Africa Workshop as Part of Fulbright

Dr. Mary Lou Galantino, professor of Physical Therapy, recently facilitated an interprofessional education (IPE) workshop at the School of Public Health of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) as part of her Fulbright Visiting Professor scholarship in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The workshop brought together over 30 clinicians and academics spanning occupational therapy, pharmacy, dentistry, medicine, physiotherapy, anthropologists, community health, rural health and education expertise.

Dr. Galantino explored the history of IPE in the context of the United States and her experiences with IPE in the School of Therapeutic Sciences, the international clinical setting, and the bases for further IPE experiences with health care professional teams. She discussed her experiences of faculty and students at Stockton, placing an emphasis on community engagement and key strategic partnerships, using existing IPE core competencies.

“It was great to share Stockton's IPE experiences here at Wits. Meeting the Dean of the School of Therapeutic Sciences will ensure the integration of the IPE strategic plan going forward which was generated from the workshop,” Dr. Galantino said. Her focus on curriculum review with the physiotherapy faculty is the integration of IPE and the scholarship of pedagogy in this developing area.

Research Paper by Dr. Kruger, Dr. Holtzman Named Best in Session

Dr. Evonne Kruger, associate professor of Business Studies, and Dr. Diane Holtzman, assistant professor of Business Studies Marketing, recently received a Best Paper in Session Award at the Spring Conference of the Academy of Business Research in New Orleans.

Their paper, "Developing Reflective Managers: The 'I Manager' Assignment," examined how students in management frequently lack managerial experience. Dr. Kruger and Dr. Holtzman created the “I Manager” assignment to help students develop three managerial skills and perspectives: the skill of managerial self-reflection, an understanding of the importance of personality in managerial practice, and the development of a personal philosophy of management.

“The 'I Manager' assignment provides an opportunity for students to assess their current knowledge in management, to identify any gaps of what they need to know to become managers, or better managers, and to evaluate and integrate new knowledge gained in the course into their existing knowledge base,” said Dr. Kruger and Dr. Holtzman. “The 'I Manager' assignment was designed as a guided reflection project that promotes students’ deep learning by engaging them in inquiry, critical thinking, synthesis, and the application of managerial theories to practice.”

Send Us Your News!

We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. Do you have an unusual hobby? Did one of your co-workers win an award or perform outstanding public service? Births, weddings, graduations and the like are all good things to submit to The Stockton Times. Contact the editor at (609) 652-4593 or e-mail Stockton-Times@stockton.edu

News about distinguished students can now be found at Distinctive Stockton Students. To contribute a news item for the blog, please contact the editor at distinctive@stockton.edu