A team of Stockton faculty, staff and students attended the 12th annual American Democracy Project (ADP) Conference in Louisville, Ky. June 5-7. The Stockton representatives gave presentations in three workshops, a campus showcase, and a student roundtable discussion.

One presentation, “Encouraging Student Activism, Organizing and Political Engagement,” described the efforts of Stockton’s Political Engagement Project (PEP) to encourage and support student activism and engagement on campus.

Linda J. Wharton, associate professor of Political Science and co-coordinator of PEP, introduced the session with an overview of Stockton's PEP initiatives and a brief history of their work with students.

Dean Lisa Honaker of the School of Arts and Humanities added the Political Engagement Project’s work with students on the campus-wide voter registration drives.

She then turned the discussion over to Dr. Michael Hozik, professor of Geology, and Mico Lucide, student co-founder of the Coalition for Civic Engagement (CCE), who described the formation and activities of the CCE, a new student-led organization aimed to enhance civic engagement at Stockton.

Daniel Fidalgo Tomé, assistant director of Service-Learning and co-coordinator of PEP, then described Stockton’s efforts to enhance student engagement through The New York Times readership program, Democracy Café dialogues, the Independent Television Service/National Public Radio (ITVS/NPR) Community Cinema Film series, and trainings by Erin O’Hanlon, Stockton’s Activist-in-Residence.

Continued on next page
Stocktonians Present at American Democracy Project

Daniel Douglas, director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, finished the discussion by describing the successful integration of students into the work of Stockton's Polling Institute and the opportunities afforded students to meet and interact with members of the New Jersey legislature through the Legislator-in-Residence program.

In another session, Dr. Kristin Jacobson, associate professor of Literature, Tomé and O’Hanlon presented on the 2020 grant funded Activist-in-Residence program (AIR). The “Activist-in-Residence: Community Voices on Campus’ workshop discussed the role of Stockton’s Activist-in-Residence, social responsibility, and how to engage campuses through social activism and campaigns. The purpose of the presentation was to provide information about the activities and accomplishments of the AIR at Stockton and to assist interested campuses in developing their own AIR programs. “The American Democracy Project expressed interest in having Stockton develop a toolkit for other campuses so this program could be rolled out nationwide,” Dr. Jacobson said.

At a session sponsored by The New York Times, Tomé and Dr. Carra Leah Hood, associate professor of Writing, co-presented, “How Students and Educators Can Use The New York Times to Achieve Institutional Learning Outcomes.” Tomé and Dr. Hood highlighted ways in which the publication can facilitate students’ learning both in and outside of the classroom. Dr. Hood shared significant uses of The New York Times as prompts for students to develop Stockton’s 10 essential learning outcomes (ELOs).

At the ADP Campus & Friend Showcase, Diana Strelczyk, program assistant for the Office of Service-Learning, and Dr. Lauren Del Rossi, visiting assistant professor of Physical Therapy, took the lead on exhibiting the Political Engagement Project events of the 2013-2014 school year. Strelczyk and Dr. Del Rossi engaged in conversations with conference attendees regarding Stockton’s on-campus activities such as voter registration tabling, the establishment of the activist-in-residence program, and Democracy Cafés.

Tomé also participated in both pre- and post-conference initiatives, including planning for the 2015 American Democracy Project Conference in New Orleans.

"I'm pleased that the Stockton team was a strong presence again this year at this important national conference, with presentations in three workshops, a campus showcase, a student roundtable and significant contributions in the many workshops we attended,” Wharton said. "Our team, which included five students, benefited enormously from the experience and, as always, we've returned to campus energized for our fall activities."

Stockton Supports Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run

The Stockton community cheered on the law enforcement volunteers and Special Olympics athletes participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on June 12. The runners carried the Flame of Hope through campus during its route to the Prudential Center in Newark for the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics 2014 USA Games.

Stockton Police Department’s Security Officers Grace Long, Jenna Bindig, and Amanda Reiser, campus police officer recruit, ran with the flaming torch.

“It was an honor to run with such an inspirational group of people for a great cause,” Officer Reiser said.

After the run, Provost and Executive Vice President Harvey Kesselman and Chief of Police Gregory Coffin shared remarks at an outdoor ceremony in front of the Campus Center.

Robert Ross, assistant director of Counseling and Health Services, and Craig Stambaugh, associate dean of Students, served as the campus liaisons, while Lindsey McGrath, assistant director of Event Services, coordinated the support details for the event.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics is the Special Olympics movement’s largest grass-root fundraiser and public awareness vehicle in the world. In 2012, law enforcement volunteers raised $46.3 million for Special Olympics programs around the world and eclipsed $462 million since the inception of the LETR in 1981.

To see more photos from the run, click here.
Stockton Employees Raise Over $40,000 in Charitable Campaign

One hundred and seventy Stockton employees raised a total of $40,846 for the 2013-2014 New Jersey State Employees Charitable Campaign (NJSECC) to be donated to various charities. Stockton exceeded the $36,000 goal by $4,846.

The Charitable Campaign is statewide and every state institution is encouraged to participate, explained Cynthia Gove-Cullers, professional services specialist in the Vice President for Administration and Finance Office. “Employees can choose one of many charitable organizations to donate to, or they can donate without being specific. The generosity was overwhelming,” she said.

Carisa Calabrese, program assistant in Fiscal Affairs, and Gove-Cullers were instrumental in organizing the campaign on Stockton’s behalf.

They were invited to a recognition ceremony at Drumthwacket in Princeton on June 3, where Stockton was awarded a certificate of recognition for having the highest increase in participants in the campaign throughout the state - over 37 percent.

“At the ceremony, Dave Jones, the campaign manager, asked me to say a few words about Stockton's success,” said Gove-Cullers. “I was honored to represent Stockton at the ceremony. Stockton should be very proud of the achievement.”

“Being a part of organizing this campaign was a really enjoyable and rewarding experience for me,” Calabrese said. “I looked forward to checking the contribution totals and hearing the voice of someone who was rewarded with one of Stockton’s weekly prizes. It was reassurance that if you do something good for others, eventually it will come back around to you.”

The Office of Development Announces New Staffing Changes

Dr. Philip T. Ellmore, chief development officer and executive director of the Stockton Foundation, recently announced the following staffing changes in the Office of Development:

Ayisha Lee has assumed the role of Program Assistant to the Chief Development Officer.

Jessica Kowal has been promoted from Executive Assistant to the Chief Development Officer and Principal Gift Coordinator to Director of Development and Special Projects. Kowal will continue to manage the details of the Foundation Board as well as new initiatives.

Nicholas Sena has been promoted from Leadership Annual Giving Coordinator to Assistant Director of Annual Giving and will now manage all aspects of Development’s Annual Giving efforts.

Stockton Noyes Arts Garage Unveils New Mosaic PeACe Project

Stockton’s Noyes Arts Garage unveiled its installation of a new community mural for Atlantic City, created by children from Atlantic City High School, Champions of Youth, Texas Avenue School, Covenant House, and other schools throughout the county.

The Mosaic PeACe Project brought together more than 300 children to create a 40-foot-long mosaic glass mural that communicates the theme of peace through a glittering glass garden.

Children designed the mural in a series of workshops that took place between February and June. They worked together in small groups with the artist and other volunteers to create the project, said Noyes Executive Director Michael Cagno.

The mural is permanently on display at The Noyes Arts Garage, located at 2200 Fairmount Ave., in the heart of the new Atlantic City Arts District. Mayor Don Guardian and Liza Cartmell, of the Atlantic City Alliance, spoke before the unveiling ceremony. A reception celebrated the young artists, families, and the community.

Funding for the project was provided in part by a $15,000 grant from The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey.
Three Community Members Join Stockton’s Foundation Board

Three members of the Atlantic County business and civic community have joined Stockton’s Foundation Board, which focuses on providing Stockton students with scholarships and financial aid.

Joining the foundation board are: Thomas J. Kuhar of Kuhar Realty, LLC, and his wife, Claire B. Kuhar, who runs her own accounting firm, both in Galloway Township, and Rita Mack, a McDonald's franchisee since 1986 who owns two restaurants in Atlantic City along with her husband, Anthony.

The Stockton Foundation was established in 1972 to provide philanthropic support for the financial needs of Stockton. The foundation reached $27.1 million in assets as of Dec. 31, 2013, a record made possible by donors who are alumni, friends, faculty/staff, area businesses, parents and student groups. The foundation has awarded over $500,000 for scholarships for the 2014 fiscal year.

Nancy Hicks Retires from Affirmative Action & Ethical Standards

Nancy W. Hicks, special assistant to the president for Affirmative Action and Ethical standards, is looking forward to retirement this June, but says she will miss “this very special place.” Hicks, who started working here in 1988, said, “I feel lucky that I was here at Stockton. The people care about each other and they act like they care.”

Her career at Stockton began after years of working in higher education at the University of Pittsburgh and Trenton State (now The College of New Jersey) and also teaching in Philadelphia schools. She was hired by the late President Vera King Farris as the assistant to the president for Affirmative Action and later took on new responsibilities as assistant to the vice president for Student Affairs (who at that time was Dr. Harvey Kesselman).

She also taught a class, “but got so busy, I needed to give it up,” she said, regretfully. “I enjoyed the opportunity to be with students - and they weren’t in trouble or troubled,” unlike in some other positions she has held.

She wishes her successor well, and says along with knowing the relevant laws and regulations, the job requires “somebody who likes people.”

She plans to relax with family and “do what I want to do when I want to do it,” she said. “But I’m really going to miss a lot of what I do and the people I work with,” Hicks said.

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

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND ETHICAL STANDARDS' EDNA ORTIZ, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SPECIALIST; TRACI MATOS, SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT; DOROTHY ECKHARDT, RETIRED STOCKTON EMPLOYEE; NANCY W. HICKS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT; DIANE EPPS, MANAGER OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND ETHICAL STANDARDS; AND DENISE GREEN, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SPECIALIST IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, IN THE CAMPUS CENTER GRAND HALL ON JUNE 16.