Stockton Signs Letter of Intent to Purchase Showboat Atlantic City from Caesars

Stockton and Caesars Entertainment Corporation announced on Nov. 12 that they have signed a letter of intent for Stockton to acquire Showboat Atlantic City from Caesars Entertainment.

Stockton said it plans to repurpose the former Showboat site as a branch campus. The transaction is subject to completion of due diligence by the college and the negotiation and execution of a definitive agreement. Terms of the pending sale were not disclosed.

If the transaction of Showboat Atlantic City is completed, Stockton will acquire approximately 28 acres and a 1,425,000 square-foot building.

“Our intent is to engage in a project that enhances Stockton’s educational growth, offerings and cost-containment while at the same time brings new educational opportunities to Atlantic City,” said President Herman Saatkamp. “Because we are merely at the letter-of-intent stage and bound by a confidentiality agreement, it is premature for me to give out any additional information.”

“The transformation and revitalization of Atlantic City requires the addition of a diverse set of reasons for people to come visit,” said Gary Loveman, chairman and CEO of Caesars Entertainment. “I believe the construction of a Stockton campus there will help to diversify the economy of the City, which is critical to its future well-being.”

Stockton Celebrates Veterans Day; Named ‘Best for Vets’

The Stockton community came together on Nov. 11 to celebrate Veterans Day with ceremonies in front of the Campus Center, at Independence Plaza and in Veterans Park.

Tom O’Donnell, assistant dean of Students/Veteran Affairs at Stockton, said “Today’s veterans are young, old, from all cultures, gay, straight, immigrants and citizens. All veterans are committed to serving this country in every way” - in battle or dealing with other threats.

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Veterans face many challenges - from wartime physical injuries and mental health issues, to a tough economy when trying to re-enter civilian life. But going to college is one of the best ways to improve one’s life and serve the country in other ways, student veterans were told at the day’s events. Click here to view more photos from the Veterans Day ceremonies.

O’Donnell thanked Martha McGinnis, professional services specialist in Veteran Affairs, and Patrick Shields, coordinator of Veteran Affairs, as well as the student veterans themselves for coordinating the day. O’Donnell also acknowledged Stockton Police and K-9 Hemi for their unwavering dedication to Stockton’s safety.

“Stockton is very proud and it’s an honor for us to be listed each year as one of the most veteran-friendly institutions in the nation,” President Herman Saatkamp said.

Earlier this week, Stockton was named to the “Best for Vets: Colleges 2015” listing by MilitaryTimes, an organization comprised of the Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times. The Stockton Veterans Program, ranked at #22 among 100 four-year schools. For the full “Best for Vets: Colleges 2015” rankings, click here.

“I am extremely proud of our veterans and our veteran support group, made up of faculty and staff. The Stockton College model, which is being used nationally, has a proven record of providing the very best support for veterans to succeed academically,” O’Donnell said. “I am honored to receive this recognition for the second consecutive year.”

Seaview Celebrates 100th Year with Time Capsule Dedication

Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club culminated its year-long Centennial celebration with a time capsule dedication.

The ceremony on Nov. 12. included remarks by President Herman Saatkamp; Andy Dolce, founder of Dolce Hotels and Resorts, which manages Seaview; and Andrew Stegen, general manager of Seaview. Following the remarks, the time capsule was lowered into the ground and each speaker participated in the ceremonial shoveling of soil to bury the time capsule.

The time capsule was filled with a range of curated items and memorabilia that represent Seaview and other Stockton-affiliated entities, notable South Jersey establishments, and objects that reflect today’s society and early 21st-century way of life. Items included a DVD of Seaview’s most recent television commercial, an official 2014 Stockton College yearbook, video commentary from President Saatkamp stored on a thumb drive and official golf course flags.

The time capsule is slated to be unearthed and opened on the occasion of Seaview’s 200th Anniversary in the year 2114. Click here for photos from the time capsule dedication.

Dr. Deb Figart Organizes Teach-In about Atlantic City

Dr. Deb Figart, professor of Education and Economics, organized an educational teach-in about Atlantic City on Nov. 6. The event, held in the Lower F-wing gallery, brought together faculty members and community experts to discuss the broader impact of the local casino closings on the economy and community.

Dr. Figart said the purpose of the teach-in was to educate students and the community about the importance of Atlantic City.

“We wanted to show that Atlantic City matters,” she explained. “One job in Atlantic City, one dollar spent in Atlantic City affects many jobs outside of the city and many dollars outside of the city. There is a ripple effect.”

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The Council of Black Faculty and Staff of Stockton honored five community members, including Tony Bethel, assistant director of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program, and Dr. Linda Williamson Nelson, professor emerita of Anthropology and Africana Studies, with awards at its annual dinner dance held at Stockton Seaview on Nov. 6.

Bethel received the council’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Bethel, who is an adjunct instructor in the School of General Studies, teaches a course on working with adolescents. He also volunteers as a coach for girls’ basketball at the Atlantic County Institute of Technology in Mays Landing.

Dr. Nelson, a founding member of the Africana Studies program at Stockton, received the council’s Merit Award. Her research in linguistic anthropology focuses on the analysis of life stories. She analyzes the way the speakers’ style of speech reinforces and embellishes cultural themes in their narratives.

Dr. Nelson has shared her research at conferences across the United States, as well as in France and Jamaica, and authored a book, *Telling our Lives, Conversations on Solidarity and Difference*, with Frida Furman and Elizabeth Kelly, both of DePaul University in Chicago.

The council also awarded Dr. La’Quetta Small ’99, principal of the Pennsylvania Avenue School in Atlantic City, with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Special recognition awards were presented to Ellen D. Bailey, Esq. of the Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC law firm of Philadelphia, and Councilman-at-Large Frank M. Gilliam Jr. of Atlantic City.

Click here to view more photos from the event.
New Interim Manager of Transportation Planning Appointed

Christopher Jurek has joined the Department of Facilities and Construction as the interim manager of Transportation Planning.

Jurek comes to Stockton from Chance Management Advisors, Inc. where he was employed as the planner/project manager. Some of his responsibilities included the development of Parking and Transportation Master Plans at Lafayette College, California University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

He played a key role in the development of Campus Master Plans, including modeling campus population growth, parking demands and transportation alternatives for more than a dozen universities and medical centers including Princeton University, Arizona State, Temple University, and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Jurek will be an active member of the Office of Facilities and Construction project management and operations management team, with primary responsibilities for long-and short-term planning and implementation of improvements and management of the college’s parking and transportation facilities, in accordance with the approved master plan, including parking lots, roads, driveways, accessibility and signage/wayfinding. Jurek will also research, develop and introduce new technologies as necessary to improve the traffic control and Transportation Demand Management for the college. He will participate in financial analysis and implementation of cost-saving initiatives, management and planning, as it relates to the college’s fleet of vehicles, transportation systems and shuttle services.

Jurek holds a master’s degree in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from Beloit College.

Dr. Marissa Levy, Alex Marino Victorious on Election Day

Dr. Marissa Levy, associate professor of Criminal Justice, and Alex Marino, assistant to the provost for Atlantic City Instructional Sites, were victorious on the Nov. 4 election day. Dr. Levy won one of the seats on the Voorhees School Board, and Marino was re-elected as freeholder in Atlantic County.

Dr. Levy is a strong proponent of professional development and supporting teachers to use and continuously advance their skills. “As a board member, I plan to encourage teaching our children at the highest possible levels, and support our teachers,” Dr. Levy said.

Marino has served as freeholder in Atlantic County for three years. Marino and Dr. Levy are both involved with the Municipal Planning Board in Atlantic City and Pleasantville to reduce youth violence. Marino is also the co-coordinator of the Lead Atlantic City Tomorrow Program, which re-established a leadership training and public policy program in Atlantic City.

“There is no doubt the next several years will be challenging for our region, with tremendous expectations placed upon our elected leaders,” Marino said. “As a County Freeholder, I am looking forward to meeting these challenges and expectations and helping this area succeed.”

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. Also, tell us what you think of the new design! Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 or email StocktonTimes@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