Stockton Files Petition for University Recognition to State

Stockton is one step closer to changing its official designation and name to Stockton University. On Oct. 15, President Herman Saatkamp filed a petition for the change to the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE). Stockton is working with consultants approved by OSHE on the next steps in the university status process.

A special web page has been designed to keep faculty, staff and the community up-to-date on the latest information regarding Stockton’s transition from a college to a university. Click here to access FAQ, the Pan-College Task Force’s report and next steps.

Hughes Center Hosts Congress to Campus

The Stockton community welcomed two retired congressmen this week as part of the Congress to Campus program hosted by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

During the campus visit on Oct. 13 and 14, Robert Clement, a Democrat who represented Tennessee’s 5th district from 1988-2003, and Louis Frey, a Republican who served Florida’s 9th district from 1973-1979, and Florida’s 5th district from 1969-1973, met with students, faculty and staff. The two former congressmen were accompanied by Ambassador William J. Hughes.

Congress to Campus, a program of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress (FMC) of Washington, D.C., connects former representatives and senators with college students. The program is designed to increase civic engagement and encourage students to pursue careers in public service.

“The Hughes Center applied to host the program so that we could provide another opportunity to enhance their academic studies with practitioners of public policy and politics. We hope that students become more engaged in civic life,” said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center.
Hughes Center Hosts Congress to Campus

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John Froonjian, senior research associate for the Hughes Center, said the former congressmen spoke on a range of topics: gridlock in Washington, D.C., their interactions with presidents, and the need for young people to vote.

“This program provided Stockton students with a rare opportunity to learn about our political system up close,” he said.

Frey and Clement visited a class taught by Dr. Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science, and discussed factors contributing to gridlock in Washington, D.C. They advocated campaign finance reform and students getting involved.

The two former congressmen held a discussion on civic education with Dr. Claudine Keenan, dean of Education, Patty Weeks, director of the Southern Regional Institute & Educational Technology Training Center (SRI&ETTC), and local educators. Dr. Keenan said Clement and Frey complemented Ambassador Hughes’ passion for civics education.

“Their ideas for advancing civics education among Stockton’s K-12 partners have led to planning for a conference enhanced by some excellent curricular resources,” she said.

Clement, who served in the National Guard and reserves, and Frey, who served in the U.S. Navy and reserves, were able to share their military experience with student veterans during one of the sessions.

“It was wonderful to have these two outstanding [former] congressmen, who served this country, meet with our Stockton student veterans,” said Tom O’Donnell, assistant dean of Students/Veteran’s Affairs. “They provided a very important discussion on ways we can enhance the combat to classroom experience.”

They also met with members of the Student Senate. Students in the Advanced Constitutional Litigation class taught by Linda Wharton, associate professor of Political Science, and members of the Political Engagement Project were also able to meet with Clement and Frey during an informal reception.

“Dr. Lisa Cox Appointed to State Board of Social Work Examiners

Dr. Lisa Cox, associate professor of Social Work, was recently appointed by Gov. Chris Christie to the State Board of Social Work Examiners.

In her new role, Dr. Cox will meet with board members once a month to review and approve license applications for social workers at all credential levels. In addition, the board oversees the approval of social work continuing education programs.

“I expect to gain insight and provide insight with integrity, as I help to review applicants who aspire to provide evidence-informed social work practice to clients who are residents of New Jersey,” Dr. Cox said.

Dr. Diane S. Falk, professor of Social Work, and MSW program director and principal investigator of the Child Welfare Education Institute, said it is an honor for Dr. Cox to be appointed to the New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners.

“This board is responsible for the regulation of social work practice in the State, the purpose of which is consumer protection,” Dr. Falk said. “The Stockton Social Work Program is proud to be supporting this important work. It is one more example of the service provided by Social Work Program faculty to our community and state.”
Stockton Celebrates Heroic Homecoming & Family Weekend

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of the community attended over two dozen events during Stockton’s Heroic Homecoming & Family Weekend held Oct. 9-12. Events included the annual homecoming parade, the 19th annual Osprey Ball, athletic and alumni events, the professional achievement awards celebration, and more.

The Offices of Student Development, Event Services & Campus Center Operations, Development & Alumni Affairs, Athletics, Residential Life, and Chartwells, were instrumental in organizing the 2014 Heroic Homecoming & Family Weekend.

This year, the inaugural School Spirit T-Shirt Swap allowed individuals to exchange an article of clothing from a non-Stockton institution for a free Stockton T-shirt. The Oct. 10 event collected 113 articles of clothing to be donated to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission.

Later that day, more than 1,300 people attended Stockton Entertainment Team’s One Night Stand-Up Comedy Show.

On Saturday, the Parent and Family Association Breakfast raised over $1,000 for the Parent & Family Association Foundation Scholarship fund.

The Heroic Homecoming Parade and Carnival attracted more than 1,000 people who helped raise over $550 for the Stockton College Foundation during the “People’s Choice” judging process. After the parade, the Stockton Faculty Band performed to a lively crowd at the carnival held in Big Blue. Other festivities included inflatables, a rock climbing wall, games, and a barbecue.

On Sunday, Dr. Melaku Lakew, professor of Economics; Dr. Claudine Keenan, dean of the School of Education; Brian Jackson, chief of Staff; Dr. Xiangping Kong, director of Institutional Research; and Jenise Kurtz, professional services specialist in Admissions, participated in the 7th Annual Stockton Alumni Legacy Fund Run/Walk. Proceeds of the 5K run/walk benefit the G. Larry James Legacy Endowed Scholarship Fund.

To see more photos from Stockton’s Heroic Homecoming & Family Weekend events, click here.

Former Stockton Board of Trustee Magda Leuchter Passes Away

Magda (Shenberg) Leuchter, co-founder and former chair of Stockton’s Board of Trustees, passed away after a short illness at her home in Key Biscayne, Florida, on Oct. 14. She was 85.

Born in Wildwood, N.J., Leuchter dedicated her life to community activism, civic leadership and philanthropy. She was involved in numerous local and national organizations.

Leuchter was one of Stockton’s founding board of trustee members in 1969 and resigned from the board in 1980.

Leuchter received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin in early childhood development in 1949. In 1958, she became a member of the Vineland Schools Council and co-founded the Ellison School in the early 1960s.
16 Staff Members from NAMS Receive AED/CPR Training

Recently, 16 staff members from the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics completed American Red Cross CPR/AED training held in the Unified Science Center.

Dean Dennis Weiss, a 40-year emergency responder with Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company in Galloway, and a member of the Board of the Galloway Township Ambulance Squad, knew that by having automated external defibrillators (AEDs) located on each floor of the Unified Science Center, he needed more employees trained in the equipment’s proper use.

Amanda Allen, professional services specialist, called Dennis Lepore, health safety officer in Risk Management, to inquire about available training. Lepore reached out to the Galloway Township Ambulance Squad to set up training.

Lieutenant Christopher Snow of the Galloway Ambulance Squad instructed the group on one- and two-rescuer adult, child and infant basic lifesaving skills with AED, as well as adult and infant choking.

The following individuals completed training: Allen; Cheryl Vaughn-Jones, assistant dean; Desiree Gaston, secretarial assistant; Cheryl Wilson, professional services specialist; Santa Cruz, secretarial assistant; Jennifer Marcello, principal clerk typist; Linda Dotts, professional services specialist; Bridget O’Connell, professional services specialist; Marie Jelinski, professional services specialist; Eve Jaworski, professional services specialist; Michael Santoro, professional services specialist; Robert McKeage, professional service specialist; Lester Block, professional service specialist; Ashley Ortillo, who works in the laboratory office; Deanne Gipple, assistant director of Academics Lab & Field Facilities; and John Rokita, principal lab technician.

SRI&ETTC Appoints Interim Associate Director James Giaquinto

James Giaquinto was appointed as the interim associate director of the Southern Regional Institute & Educational Technology Training Center (SRI&ETTC) in October.

Giaquinto recently retired as superintendent of schools in Absecon after 12 years in the position. During his 30-year career in K-12 education, Giaquinto taught social studies in the Trenton and East Windsor school districts before serving as building principal in Egg Harbor Township, Mullica, and Galloway Township schools. His extensive career has included leadership roles with the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, New Jersey Association of School Administrators, Atlantic County United Way, and Absecon Municipal Alliance.

Giaquinto has been an adjunct faculty member in Stockton’s School of Education since 1998. He regularly participates in focus meetings and other activities to inform the practices related to both the pre-service and graduate programs in education.

In his new role as interim associate director, Giaquinto will assume responsibility for all SRI&ETTC programming related to school leadership, principal and teacher evaluation, NJ Department of Education’s mandated professional development, and content-specific requests to support implementation of the Common Core in Mathematics and English Language Arts.

Giaquinto earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1981 and a master’s degree in Education in 1990 from Trenton State College (The College of New Jersey). He is certified as an elementary teacher, K-12 social studies teacher, principal, and school administrator in the state of New Jersey.

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 609-626-5521 or e-mail 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