Stockton College is Part of the New Jersey Big Data Alliance

Stockton joins other institutions of higher education in the New Jersey Big Data Alliance, which was recognized in the state’s first “Big Data” bill recently signed by Gov. Chris Christie.

The bill puts the state on the path to become a national leader in “Big Data” by officially recognizing the NJBDA as the state’s advanced cyberinfrastructure consortium. Advanced cyberinfrastructure is the hardware, software, networks and human expertise used to store, manage, transport and analyze massive quantities of digital information, known as “Big Data.”

“Big Data science is the application of computer software and code to large data sets with the intention of answering questions in business, industry or science,” said Dr. Russell Manson, director of the Graduate Program in Computational Science.

“The Stockton program is currently expanding its curriculum to better serve the needs of the growing Big Data industry,” said Dr. Manson. “We are expanding links to industries and businesses such as those affiliated with the Federal Aviation Administration’s William J. Hughes Technical Center and the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park, with the intention that all students will complete a real-world Big Data analysis and visualization internship as part of their graduate degree. We also hope to find partners with Big Data problems to be solved in the medical and health-science fields.”

The New Jersey Big Data Alliance will bring together resources from some of New Jersey’s top universities and colleges to confront challenges as well as develop new opportunities in regards to leveraging the promise of Big Data.

Big Data poses challenges that significantly impact all sectors of industry, academia and government and prevent them from realizing its tremendous potential. These challenges are not just technological, but also include a deficit of human expertise. A recent McKinsey Report estimated a shortage of 140,000 to 190,000 people with deep analytical skills in the United States as well as a shortage of 1.5 million managers and analysts who have the skills necessary to interpret Big Data and implement results.

The New Jersey Big Data Alliance (NJBDA) addresses these challenges by bringing together the diverse advanced cyberinfrastructure resources and talent housed at the state’s colleges and universities to identify areas of synergy, develop joint educational and research programs, and ultimately nucleate an effective alliance that will increase the competitiveness of New Jersey’s institutions of higher education and industry, and drive economic development in New Jersey.

More information about the New Jersey Big Data Alliance is available at njbigdata.org.
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Center to Pursue Next Steps

The Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Center (WGSC) recently received initial funding approval from the College to begin phasing in its programming on Stockton’s main campus. The mission of the WGSC is to serve the entire campus, including Stockton’s satellite campuses, via its webpage and other outreach programs. The center will serve as a clearinghouse for gender, sexuality and survivor resources on campus and provide a safe, welcoming space to enhance the quality of campus life.

In Spring 2013, Dr. Kristin Jacobson, associate professor of Literature, along with other faculty and staff, responded to student requests for such a center on campus and prompted a formal call to action by the Stockton community.

An ad hoc committee of faculty, staff, students and community members composed the original proposal for the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Center. A Faculty Senate Task Force was formed to further review the Center’s mission, responsibilities and required resources, and presented a final proposal to the Faculty Senate for approval.

“The WGSC is founded upon the conviction that issues related to victimization, gender and sexuality are pertinent not only to women, but to everyone,” the report stated. “The entire community should address problems such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, interpersonal relationship violence, bullying, and homophobia, and issues such as sexual orientation and parenting if we are to effect political and social change.”

As part of the phase-in process, a comprehensive proposal will be submitted to the appropriate federal, state, foundations and other agencies to secure external funding for the Center to grow beyond the establishment of an initial assistant director position. The WGSC will work with various departments across the College to provide advocacy and outreach programming.

The Faculty Task Force included the following faculty and staff members: Dr. Jacobson, co-chair; Laurie A. Dutton, co-chair and associate director of Counseling Services; Dr. Dee McNeely-Greene, associate vice president for Student Affairs; Dr. Margaret Lewis, professor of Biology; Dr. Maya Lewis, assistant professor of Social Work; Nathan Long, associate professor of Creative Writing; Dr. Jennifer Lyke, associate professor of Psychology; and Daniel Fidalgo Tomé, assistant director of Service-Learning.

To read the Faculty Task Force report and learn more about the WGSC, click here.

Heidi Hartley Receives Health and Wellness Design Award

Heidi Hartley, program assistant in the Graphics department, was recently recognized by Graphics Design USA. Hartley received a Health and Wellness Design Award for the Eating to Thrive poster which she designed for The Wellness Center.

Hartley learned about the competition when she was finishing up the project and decided to apply.

She had just returned home from a family vacation in Disney World when she found out that she had won.

“I was thrilled,” she said. “It was a positive way to start work again.”

Since the poster was promoting an informational group about overcoming common eating challenges, Hartley drew inspiration from images of vegetables in order to illustrate eating clean.

Hartley has worked in the Graphics department since 2008. She holds a degree in Illustration from the University of the Arts.

Joseph M. Sheairs Sr. Named New Executive Director of ARTP

Joseph M. Sheairs Sr., a veteran executive with over 35 years of experience in aviation, engineering, technology and business, was named the new executive director of the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park (ARTP) by the Board of Trustees on Sept. 17.

Sheairs is a graduate of West Point and the New Jersey Institute of Technology and holds degrees in engineering and computer sciences. Sheairs replaces Ronald J. Esposito, who retired as executive director of the Stockton ARTP after a 34-year career in aviation administration.
School of Health Sciences Welcomes New Faculty Members

Editor's note: More than 50 new faculty and staff members have joined the Stockton community. We will feature these faculty and staff members in the Times as more information becomes available. Welcome!

Dr. Lauren Del Rossi rejoins the School of Health Sciences as an assistant professor of Physical Therapy after serving as a visiting assistant professor in 2013-2014. Dr. Del Rossi holds her D.P.T. and B.S. in Biology from Stockton. Prior to this appointment, she worked at CanChild/McMaster University's On-Track Studies program and for the Voorhees Pediatric Hospital. Dr. Del Rossi is a licensed physical therapist, an NTSA SafeKids New Jersey Child Passenger Safety Technician, and an APTA Credentialed Instructor.

Dr. Kelly Dougherty joins the School of Health Sciences as a visiting assistant professor of Health Science. Dr. Dougherty holds her Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Kinesiology from Pennsylvania State University and a B.S. in Physical Education from The College of New Jersey. She was assistant professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania in the Perelman School of Medicine and The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and recently graduated from the Master of Science in Translational Research at the University of Pennsylvania.

Continued on next page
School of Health Sciences Welcomes New Faculty Members

Continued from previous page

Margaret Gray joins the School of Health Sciences as an assistant professor of Nursing. Gray is an Ed.D. candidate at The University of Alabama, holds her M.S.N. from Stockton, her M.Ed from Georgian Court University, and her B.S.N. from The University of Delaware. Gray has taught for New Jersey City University, Atlantic Cape Community College, and Ocean Medical Center. She is certified as an Adult Advanced Practice Nurse; a New Jersey School Nurse; a Substance Awareness Coordinator; an Orthopedic Nurse; an IV Instructor; and a Certified Medical Aide Trainer.

Kathleen Klein rejoins the School of Health Sciences as an associate professor of Occupational Therapy. Klein is a candidate for a D.O.T. from The University of Kansas Medical Center and holds an Advanced M.S. and B.S. in Occupational Therapy from Thomas Jefferson University. Klein most recently was the director of Professional Development for the American Occupational Therapy Association. From 2001 to 2012, she was an associate professor of Occupational Therapy at Stockton.

Dr. Monika Pawlowska joins the School of Health Sciences as a visiting assistant professor of Communication Disorders. Dr. Pawlowska holds her Ph.D. and M.A. in English Linguistics from The Adam Mickiewicz University in Poland. She completed postdoctoral training at Purdue University and was recently an assistant professor at The University of North Dakota. Her current research involves the acquisition of grammatical morphology by children with specific language impairment.

Lori Ann Prol joins the School of Health Sciences as an assistant professor of Nursing. Prol is a Ph.D. candidate at Capella University, holds a Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate from the College of New Rochelle, earned her M.S.N. from Rutgers University and her B.S.N. from Pace University. She is a Family Nurse Practitioner in both New York and New Jersey and is a Certified Nurse Educator for the National League for Nursing.

Dr. Irene Sanders joins the School of Health Sciences as a visiting assistant professor of Health Science. She holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Rowan University, an M.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Massachusetts, and a B.S. in Speech from St. John’s University. Dr. Sanders has taught undergraduate courses in Communication Disorders at Stockton for several semesters, and has many years of experience as a school-based speech-language specialist.

Dr. Amee Shah joins the School of Health Sciences as an associate professor of Health Science after serving as an associate professor at Cleveland State University. Dr. Shah earned her Ph.D. and an M.Phil. in Speech and Hearing Sciences from The City University of New York, her M.A. in Speech Pathology from Queens College, and both her M.A. in Linguistics and her B.S. in Audiology and Speech Rehabilitation from Bombay University, Bombay, India. She is the founder and director of the EBAM (Committed to Evidence-based Accent Management) Institute and has extensive research experience in speech science.

Dr. Kerri Sowers joins the School of Health Sciences as an assistant professor of Health Science. Dr. Sowers holds her D.P.T. and B.A. in Liberal Studies from Stockton and is completing her Ph.D. at Nova Southeastern University. She has clinical experience as a physical therapist at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center and at All Pro Physical Therapy.

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 coworkers 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