

Stockton's Student Outcomes Symposium Shares Best Practices to Improve Services

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Galloway, NJ – More than 200 higher education leaders convened to share best practices at the Student Outcomes Symposium, hosted by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University on June 15. The symposium explored students' academic success, workforce preparation and civic participation, and was attended by career counselors, academic advisers, admissions counselors and employers from 32 colleges and universities.

"Students come first at Stockton University. Giving our students the skills and abilities needed to learn for a lifetime and to start successful careers is at the heart of the missions of our colleges and universities," Kesselman continued, outlining the broad purpose of the symposium. "This is the means by which we build a more prosperous and civil New Jersey. Only truly educated citizens can protect our special American sense of opportunity, liberty and equality."

Kesselman was joined on a leadership panel with David Payne, vice president and chief operating officer of Educational Testing Service Global Education Division, and Hasani C. Carter, who currently serves as the state director of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) within the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.

David Payne focused on student outcomes from a global perspective and about how we measure them and for what purposes. He stressed ongoing efforts to measure outcomes in a meaningful way for students, educators and employers, and growing interest in evidence-based assessment of civic learning.

Carter outlined the College Success Collaborative, an initiative of Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks which involves pre-tertiary, higher education and community-based organizations. The initiative also researches the broad set of skills needed to succeed beyond college and the workplace, such as tolerance for others and global awareness.

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Darryl Greer, a Senior Fellow of the Hughes Center's Higher Education and Strategic Information and Governance (HESIG) project, presented research on student attitudes toward college value and on counseling and advising services.

The HESIG research reveals recent college graduates believe the most important college outcome is "to get a better job," with 30 percent naming that as their top priority. One in three students says colleges are doing "extremely well" in preparing them for a job and career.

Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the Hughes Center, pointed to the research where students did not think civic participation was important to employers. However, a 2015 survey conducted by Hart Research Associates for the American Association for Colleges and Universities (AA&CU), reported that 86% of employers surveyed said that, regardless of major, college and university students should "take courses that build the civic knowledge, skills, and judgment essential for contributing to a democratic society."

About Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance (HESIG)

HESIG (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter/hesig) serves as an agent for constructive higher education policy change, by recommending strategic policy action aligned with a public agenda to serve the public good. Guiding principles include: enhancing college access, affordability, completion, productivity, accountability, and building partnerships to achieve these ends. HESIG is a partner with the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education's Student Success Collaborative.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (stockton.edu/hughescenter) at Stockton University serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey, and promotes the civic life of New Jersey through engagement, education and research. The Center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton. The Hughes Center can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter and found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StocktonHughesCenter/>

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