

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Are New Nuclear Power Plants in NJ's Future?

Former NJ Gov. Christine Whitman Will Join a Panel to Discuss the Future of Nuclear Power in a Hughes Center Lecture at Stockton April 29

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Atlantic City, NJ- Presently, solar and wind energy sources are at the forefront of the alternative energy market, but will they leave room for future nuclear power plants? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, nuclear power plants currently generate approximately 20 percent of electricity produced in the United States. There are just over 100 nuclear power plants in the country, four located in southern New Jersey; however the majority of those plants were licensed 40 to 50 years ago and no new plant has been ordered in over 30 years.

On **Thursday, April 29, 2010** from **6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**, the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy will host a discussion titled "Nuclear Power in Our Future." Former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman will join William Levis, president of the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) Power, in discussing the economic and environmental opportunities nuclear power presents. Ed Rodgers, an environmental reporter and producer, will serve as the moderator. The lecture series event will take place at Stockton's Carnegie Library Center located at 35 S. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in Atlantic City.

Sharon Schulman, executive director of the William J. Hughes Center, said, "We are pleased to have distinguished experts discuss the disadvantages and advantages of nuclear power in a climate of rising energy demand."

The world's first large-scale nuclear power plant opened in 1957 in nearby Shippingport, Pennsylvania and remained in operation for 25 years. Since then, safety, financial, regulatory and waste disposal issues have been heavily debated and researched by scientists worldwide. The Hughes Center will further delve into these details, weigh the pros and cons, and leave the audience with an idea of nuclear power's potential in our region.

Space is limited, so please RSVP by sending an e-mail to the Hughes Center at hughescenter@stockton.edu or by calling 609-626-3542. Parking permits are available.

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Former New Jersey Governor, Christine Todd Whitman, was New Jersey's first— and so far, only— woman governor who served as the 50th governor of our state from 1994 to 2001. Prior to her position as governor, she served as president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and after her service as governor she served in the cabinet of President George W. Bush as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency until June of 2003. As Governor, Whitman earned praise for her commitment to preserve a record amount of New Jersey land as permanent green space. She was also recognized by the Natural Resources Defense Council for instituting the most comprehensive beach monitoring system in the nation. Whitman co-chairs Clean and Safe Energy (CASE) with Dr. Patrick Moore, and she is the President of The Whitman Strategy Group, a consulting firm that specializes in energy and environmental issues.

William Levis has more than 30 years of diversified experience in the nuclear power industry. Since 2007, he has served as the elected president and chief operating officer of Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) Power, a diversified energy company headquartered in New Jersey and one of the ten largest electric companies in the U.S. Prior to his current position, Levis has served as president and chief operating officer of PSEG Nuclear; senior vice president and chief nuclear officer as part of the Nuclear Operating Services Agreement between PSEG and Exelon Corporation; vice president of Exelon Nuclear's Mid-Atlantic operations; and as a site manager for various nuclear power stations. Throughout his career, Levis has provided executive oversight of day-to-day operations of nuclear power stations including Limerick, Peach Bottom, Three Mile Island and Oyster Creek. Levis is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and he holds a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) certification.

The moderator, Ed Rodgers, is an environmental reporter and producer of two NJN news and public affairs series. Since 1985, Rodgers has worked as an assignment editor at NJN News in both the South Jersey and Trenton bureaus focusing on environmental issues. In 1996, Rodgers earned an Environmental Quality Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the consistency and quality of his environmental coverage on NJN News. Rodgers had the lead story on a NJN newscast that won the Emmy for best newscast in the 1995-1996 Mid-Atlantic Chapter. The story focused on President Clinton's visit to a New Jersey Superfund Site. Aside from his reporting duties, Rodgers is producer of both NJN weekly public affairs programs: *Reporters Roundtable With Michael Aron* and executive producer of *On The Record*. He is also responsible for producing NJN's election night coverage and other public affairs specials. Ed is a Scripps Howard Institute on the Environment fellow and an Institutes for Journalism and Natural Resources fellow.

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