

Office of Public Relations
Pomona, NJ 08240

Richard Stockton College Hosts Fourth Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium

Civil Rights Attorney Vanita Gupta to Deliver the Keynote Talk

For Immediate Release

Thursday, September 20, 2007

**Contact: Tim Kelly
Jessica Hudson
Stockton Public Relations
(609) 652-4950**

Galloway Twp., NJ –The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will host the Fourth Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium on Thursday, October 4, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm in the Performing Arts Center on the Galloway Township campus.

This year's event will feature a keynote talk by civil rights attorney Vanita Gupta.

Just a few months after Gupta graduated from New York University School of Law, she took on a major civil rights case for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She won the case through overturning the sham drug convictions of 35 African-American residents of Tulia, Texas.

This case was retold in Nate Blakeslee's book, *Tulia: Race, Cocaine, and Corruption in a Small Texas Town* and Halle Berry is set to play the role of Gupta in an upcoming film about the case.

The event is named in honor of Fannie Lou Hamer, whose impassioned plea for equal voting rights at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City helped bring national attention to the issue.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Reid- Merritt at pat.reid-merritt@stockton.edu.

#