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Stockton Part of New Jersey Big Data Alliance

Higher Education Alliance Will Work with N.J. Government, Industry
to Build Advanced Computation Resources, Drive Economic Development

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Galloway, NJ - The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey 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, spearheaded by Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, (D-17) 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 at Stockton.

"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.

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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.

"New Jersey is open for innovation," Assemblyman Chivukula said Tuesday in announcing the bill's passage. "The legislation is a big step in strengthening New Jersey's hand in attracting investment, retaining high-tech jobs and creating real economic growth," Chivukula said.

The NJBDA, which was initiated through Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, also includes Kean University, Montclair State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Rowan University and Stevens Institute of Technology. The alliance works closely with the Office of Assemblyman Chivukula, the New Jersey Office of Information Technology – Enterprise Data Services, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and NJEDge.Net, which provides high capacity network interconnections to colleges and universities throughout the state.

Leaders in the New Jersey Office of Information Technology are pleased with this partnership. "Collectively, the alliance partners can bring resources to bear that no one organization could muster," said Daniel Paolini, director of the Division of Enterprise Information Services, N.J. Office of Information Technology. "By creating a collaboration environment rather than one of competition, fewer government resources will be diverted into multiple competing initiatives. Our Big Data Solutions Group is looking forward to the benefits of this alliance."

In the coming year, the alliance will conduct industry and government outreach, create training and workforce development workshops, and develop a Big Data Resource Portal.

More information about the New Jersey Big Data Alliance is available at njbigdata.org

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