

**THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

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Office of Public Relations  
Pomona, NJ 08240

**Media Alert/Invitation to Cover**

**Stockton College to Confer Degrees at  
Annual Fall Commencement Ceremonies**

***Professor Merydawilda Colon to Deliver Keynote Address***

**For Immediate Release**

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** –The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will conduct the Annual Fall Commencement Ceremonies on Sunday, December 16, 2007.

There will be two separate ceremonies. A special Hooding Ceremony for Masters degree candidates will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Stockton Performing Arts Center (M-Wing on the Pomona Campus.) The degree conferral ceremony for Bachelor degree candidates will be held at 1 p.m. in the Sports Center of the Galloway Township Campus. The Sports Center is located adjacent to parking lot 4, just off College Drive.

Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. will present diplomas to approximately 766 bachelor degree candidates in the six schools of the College: Arts and Humanities, Business, General Studies, Natural Science and Mathematics, Professional Studies, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. As of Friday morning the total included 597 Fall, and 169 Summer graduates. Additionally there will be 55 advanced degrees conferred: eight Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies; 11 Master of Business Administration; 12 Master of Arts in Instructional Technology; 18 Master of Science in Occupational Therapy and four Master of Arts in Education.

Merydawilda Colon, Associate Professor of Social Work, will deliver the Commencement Address.

Faculty Grand Marshal for the Processional will be Wendel White, Professor of Art. Banner Carriers representing the Schools of the College include: Julia Sluzenski,

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Assistant Professor of Psychology, who will be representing the Faculty; Kimberly A. Furphy, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, representing Graduate Studies; Sarah Sieracki, representing Arts and Humanities; Robyn Poole, Assistant Professor of Business Studies, representing Business; Luis Pena, Supervisor of the Math Lab Tutor Center, representing General Studies; Michael Lague, Assistant Professor of Biology, representing Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Ron Tinsley, Assistant Professor of Education, representing Professional Studies; Thomas Sunchuk, representing Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Walter Tarver III, Director of Career Services, representing the College.

Jennifer Anzuena, resident of Mullica Hill, NJ and President of the Student Senate, will deliver the student address. Anzuena will graduate with a B.A. degree in Political Science with a minor in Business.

Karen Mills-Toohey of Toms River, NJ a candidate for a Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies will deliver the student speech at the Hooding Ceremony.

**About Merydawilda Colon:** Born in Puerto Rico, Merydawilda Colon is Associate Professor of Social Work at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and Coordinator of the College's nationally-recognized Social Work Program. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary Education from the Universidad de Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras. She began her professional career as a high school teacher in Puerto Rico in 1988. After relocating to New Jersey, she worked for the Spanish Community Center in Atlantic City. Dr. Colon's concern for the Spanish-speaking population infected with the HIV virus and a lack of bilingual case managers led her to a position as an Atlantic City Medical Center case worker and to pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work. In 1995 the Graduate School of Social Work at Rutgers University in Camden recognized her achievements and contributions to the program with the Christine Memorial Fund Award. Upon graduation, she became Coordinator for the HIV/AIDS Early Intervention Program at the Atlantic City Medical Center and a hospice social worker.

Her teaching career at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey began in 2001. She has taught introductory and junior level courses in social work, *Spanish for the Human Services Field* and *Death and Dying*. While teaching at Stockton, she earned a Master of Philosophy in Social Welfare in 2006 and a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare from the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York in 2007.

Dr. Colon's community service includes work with hospice and with the Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Families, where she contributes to the training of volunteers. She has been published in journals such as the *American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine* and the *Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care*.

She resides in Egg Harbor Township with her husband Carlos Fernando and their son Fernando Carlos.

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