

"YOU Make the Difference: the Campaign for Stockton College"

First Comprehensive Campaign in College History Announced

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Galloway Township, **NJ-** "You Make the Difference, the Campaign for Stockton College," is officially underway. Stockton's first-ever comprehensive giving campaign was announced today by College President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr.

"Your philanthropic support of Stockton's students will help ensure their quality education and degree attainment," Dr. Saatlkamp said. "The difference you make is real and tangible."

The Campaign for Stockton College seeks to raise \$20 million by June 30, 2014, in support of students education and experience. More than \$12.9 million has already been raised during the campaign's "silent phase."

"We are quite confident in our ability to reach it and go beyond," Dr. Saatkamp said. "Scholarships, need-based financial aid, and funds that support efforts to enhance academic and student programming are our highest priorities."

Formally introduced during Stockton's 40th Anniversary of Teaching kickoff events, the Campaign is an integral part of the College's plans for the future. Dr. Saatkamp noted philanthropic support of the College is particularly needed during difficult financial times. Additionally, New Jersey's public colleges have endured two decades of waning state funding.

"Many highly qualified students rely on scholarships and grants to attain their degrees and to pursue their aspirations," Dr. Saatkamp stated. "Community support of Stockton is more important than ever before."

According to Dr. Phillip Ellmore, Chief Development Officer and Executive Director of the Richard Stockton College Foundation, the Campaign provides an opportunity for alumni, faculty staff and friends of the College to participate in its advancement. "Stockton has been a College of Distinction since its earliest roots in the former Mayflower Hotel on the Atlantic City boardwalk," Ellmore said. "Stockton is one of the top-rated public Colleges in the nation. We retain our rich tradition in liberal arts while offering expanded curriculum in the health sciences

and professional studies. We represent an exceptional value and wish to maintain our accessibility and affordability. A donation to our Comprehensive Campaign helps us to continue to deliver a high quality educational experience."

Stockton graduates Summer Hill Seven (1987) and Caroline "Cookie" Till (1983) commented on the value of their Stockton diplomas. "The day I graduated I began dining on the banquet of dreams that were fostered in the four years I spent with the brilliant minds of Stockton's beautiful campus," said Seven, an award-winning writer, performer and film producer. "Stockton opened up a world I didn't know existed," said Till, a successful restaurateur and entrepreneur. "You could say my college years at Stockton were transformative."

Stockton currently has more than 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a wide range of majors encompassing the arts, sciences, and professional studies. More math and science majors have come out of Stockton than any other state college or university in recent years, a total of 25 percent.

Stockton's distinguished faculty continues its commitment to the growth and development of the College's students. Rich in research and creativity, Stockton has the highest percentage of tenure-track faculty among the nine New Jersey public higher education institutions. Stockton's commitment to maintain faculty teaching in small class sizes is facilitated by expanded facilities including the new 154,000 square-ft. Campus Center and new unified science center under construction.

Perhaps the best advocacy for Stockton's Comprehensive Campaign is made by the scholarship recipients themselves. "The scholarship meant that I could stay in school," said Kenan Kurt, a political science major. "Without the scholarship I don't know what I'd do." Amy Konczal, a bachelor of fine arts major said her scholarship meant "a chance to pursue a dream I feared would never come to fruition."

For more information on the Campaign or to make a donation, please contact Ellmore at 609-626-3546 or by e-mail at Phillip.Ellmore@stockton.edu