

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton Pays Tribute to Fannie Lou Hamer at Sixth Annual Human and Civil Rights Symposium

Donna Brazile to Deliver the Keynote Address on October 6th

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will host the Sixth Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium on Tuesday, October 6, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center on the Galloway Township campus. The event, open to the public, is part of Stockton's Constitution Day Series and is sponsored by the Africana Studies Program and the School of General Studies in conjunction with the Unified Black Student Society, the Office of Student Development, the Office of the Provost, and the Diversity Living and Learning Community.

The annual Human and Civil Rights Symposium is named in honor of Fannie Lou Hamer, one of twenty children born to sharecroppers in the Mississippi Delta, who inspired countless African Americans with her extraordinary courage. On August 31, 1962, Hamer, at the age of 44, decided that she was sick and tired of being sick and tired. Hamer and 17 others took the bus to Indianola, Mississippi to register to vote.

Only a few years later, as Vice-Chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Hamer represented her entire race at the 1964 Democratic National Convention held in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Hamer's legacy is remembered and shared with the Stockton community to keep the memory of her struggles for freedom and equality alive.

In honor of our first African American president, the theme of this year's symposium is: Civil Rights and Social Activism in the Age of Obama: What's Next? Governor Corzine has been invited to give a welcoming address, and political commentary Donna Brazile will deliver the keynote address. A distinguished panel of experts including Dr. Thaddeus Mathis, Professor Emeritus, Temple University School of Social Administration, Dr. Shawn Donaldson, Associate Professor of Sociology, and New Jersey Supreme Court Justice and author of *Boardwalk Empire*, Nelson Johnson, will lead a discussion based on this year's theme.

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Donna Brazile, the event's keynote speaker, is Vice-Chair of Voter Registration and Participation at the Democratic National Committee and a well-known and admired political strategist. Brazile fought and won her first political battle at the age of nine when she campaigned for a city council candidate who promised a playground in her neighborhood. After her first taste of victory, Brazile decided to dedicate her career to making a difference in the world. She has worked on every presidential campaign since 1984, and on the day after Martin Luther King Junior's assassination, she committed her heart and her future to political and social activism, eventually working on the successful campaign to make King's birthday a national holiday. Brazile is a trailblazer for encouraging youth involvement in politics and expanding American democracy.

For more information about the Sixth Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium, please contact Pat Reid-Merritt at Pat.Reid-Merrit@stockton.edu or at 609-652-4609.

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