

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## More than 800 Attend 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Stockton College Scholarship Gala

\$500,000 in Scholarship Funding Raised At Event in Atlantic City

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Atlantic City, NJ-** Scholarships were the focus on Saturday night as a record number of attendees gathered at Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Stockton College Scholarship Benefit Gala. All proceeds from the event benefit Stockton scholarships.

“Scholarships are more important than ever in today’s challenging economy,” Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said. “Our distinctive student body includes many first generation college students as well as students whose economic circumstance demand they work while they are going to school. The support we receive at events like the Gala often makes the difference to help provide an opportunity these students otherwise would not have.”

More than 800 community members were on hand and more than \$500,000 was raised to benefit deserving Stockton students at the event that featured cocktails, fine dining, a silent auction and performances by singing sensation Marc Antonelli and Stockton’s own Faculty Band.

Kenan Kurt, recipient of a Stockton Presidential Scholarship and President of the Student Senate, has a particularly touching story that was featured in a video shown to the guests. A political science major with a minor in Holocaust and genocide studies, Kurt’s parents divorced just before his freshman year and as a result his mother lost their home. “I just want to say to the donors that every dollar counts,” he said, “Without my scholarship, I would be working at McDonald’s.”

There are currently nearly 60 named upperclass and transfer awards and scholarships. Additionally, the Foundation presents a number of book awards and other forms of financial assistance to worthy recipients.

The Foundation awards scholarships to outstanding freshmen, upperclassmen and graduate

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students. Recipients, determined by a Selection Committee comprised of representatives of the faculty, administration and Foundation Board of Directors, maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average.

Educational access and affordability has long been a priority of Stockton's mission, Dr. Saatkamp said. It is made possible through private donations to the Stockton College Foundation, events such as the Gala and Stockton Golf Classic, the Annual Fund, as well as through college funding.

Saturday night's event attracted the largest number of attendees in its history. The 800-plus guests surpassed last year's previous record number (over 750 guests).

"The outpouring of support in our community for this event is nothing short of remarkable," Dr. Saatkamp said. "It was an evening of great fun with a serious purpose – making a difference for our students by providing educational opportunities."

For the second consecutive year, Borgata Senior Vice President of Operations Auggie Cipollini served as honorary chair for the event. Gayle and Dr. Howard Gross served as gala chairs. Gayle Cross is chair of the Stockton College Foundation and has served as a member of the Foundation Board for many years. Dr. Howard Gross founded Horizon Eye Care.

The following sponsors exemplify the Gala's theme, "You Make the Difference".

**Chair's Circle:** Borgata Heart & Soul Foundation; Gayle and Dr. Howard Gross; IBEW Local 351; Press of Atlantic City.

**Magna Cum Laude:** AtlantiCare; Avalon Carpet Tile and Flooring; Chartwells; Dr. Jo Frances Stow; Follett Higher Education Group; Interstate Outdoor Advertising; Kramer Beverage Co.; Seaview Resort; Stockton College Campus Center Design Team; NBC 40; Terminal Construction Corporation.

**Cum Laude:** AC Linen Supply, Inc.; Atlantic County Utility Authority; Azeez Foundation; Baumgardner Construction; Burlington County Times; Caesars Entertainment; Capaldi Reynolds and Pelosi; Ciccone, Gotthold and Koseff, Certified Public Accountants; Dean and Zoe Pappas; DLA Piper LLP (US); Historic Town of Smithville; IGT; Just Four Wheels, Inc; Marathon Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc; Morgan Stanley; Morowitz and Company, LLC Certified Public Accountants; Pennoni Associates Inc.; Pepsi Beverage Company; PNC; Quantum Capital Management, LLC; South Jersey Industries; Salmon Ventures, Ltd.; Shore Memorial Hospital; SOSH Architects; Steel Pier; Steve and Cookie's By the Bay; TD Bank, N.A.; T.N. Ward Company; The Gibson Tarquini Group, Inc.; Tropicana Casino and Resort; Trump Entertainment; Vertis Communications.

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