

Office of Public Relations
Galloway Twp., NJ 08240

Stockton Announces First \$1 Million Gift as Hughes Policy Center is Formally Dedicated

Governors Corzine and Richardson of New Mexico, Former Governor Florio, Area Legislators Attend

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Galloway Twp., NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey announced the first \$1 million gift of endowment in College history Monday, May 19, 2008 as the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy was formally dedicated in ceremonies at the College.

Close to 200 invited guests including New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, featured speaker New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, former Governor James Florio and Center namesake longtime Congressman and former United States Ambassador Hughes turned out for the event. Major endowers attended the event as well as leaders representing area businesses and civic groups. Also on hand was a strong contingent of legislators and a large media presence.

“The great turnout and financial support tied to this event gives an indication of just how enthusiastically the Hughes Center has been embraced prior to tonight’s dedication,” Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said. “The Center is clearly filling a niche as a needed voice on policy matters for Southern New Jersey and the entire state and region.”

Stockton’s first \$1 million endowed gift is the culmination of an intense recent fundraising effort. A private benefactor recently donated \$500,000 on condition that it be matched. Additional donations poured in ranging from \$1,000 to much larger amounts, and it became evident the matching funds would be secured.

The Hughes Center will serve as a focal point for

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"The Hughes Center will be a focal point for information and discussion so we can strengthen our voice in Trenton," said Center Director Sharon Schulman.

Featured guest at the event was New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson. Gov. Richardson, who was one of this year's Primary candidates for President, has held several high-level offices during his career in public service. Richardson has been a Congressman, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, and the United States Ambassador to the United Nations. His relationship with the Center's namesake, Ambassador William J. Hughes, has existed throughout much of their careers and he was pleased to help to launch this public policy center.

Ambassador Hughes' service as Congressman of NJ's 2nd Congressional District spanned two decades and an auspicious career as the U.S. Ambassador to Panama. He also taught at the College as a Distinguished Visiting Professor, has been a Commencement speaker and holds a Stockton Honorary Doctor of Letters degree. His commitment to the advancement of the College and Southern New Jersey remains strong and active.

Although the matching funds have been secured to place Stockton over the \$1 million target amount, there is still an opportunity for partnerships. To contribute or to learn more about the Center, please visit the Web site for additional information: www.stockton.edu/hughescenter or call the Center at (609) 626-3542.

The Hughes Center for Public Policy, founded by Ambassador Hughes in 2006, is a catalyst for research, analysis and the generation of innovative policy solutions to the social, economic and cultural issues facing Southern New Jersey.

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