

**THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

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Office of Public Relations  
Pomona, NJ 08240

***Stockton Council of Black Faculty and Staff  
Honors Jackson, Gonzalez, Lakew***

***Awards Dinner and Dance Set for Thursday, November 8, 2007 at  
Carriage House in Galloway***

***For Immediate Release***

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** –Three members of the Stockton College community will share in the Annual Merit Award at The Richard Stockton College Council of Black Faculty and Staff Annual Awards Dinner and Dance.

Mr. Brian Jackson of Galloway Twp., Dr. Thomasa Gonzalez of Hammonton and Dr. Melaku Lakew of Mays Landing will be the co-recipients of the Council's highest award, while Mr. Orkeem Davis, class of 1994, was selected to receive the Distinguished Alumni honor. James L. Cooper, Esq., Richlyn F. Goddard, Ph.D., Mr. Ralph E. Hunter, Sr. and Mayor Ralph Peterson will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards.

The event takes place on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at the Carriage House in Galloway Twp. A cash bar cocktail hour kicks off the evening at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the awards program, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

According to Council President Stephen Davis, "The response to this event has been overwhelming and has really taken off in recent years. We have reached the point of becoming a major fundraiser for the benefit of the Stockton College Foundation's scholarship fund."

Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, The Annual Awards Dinner and Dance has always been an important event on the social schedule of the Stockton community. In recent years, it has begun to attract many interested parties including elected officials, influential business leaders and supporters of higher education. In addition to raising funds, the event honors outstanding members of the community for their contributions, as well as outstanding Alumni.

Framing this year's event is the theme of "Honoring and Celebrating Diversity."

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The evening includes a gourmet dinner and the musical accompaniment of The Dynasty Band.

Dr. Vera King Farris, President Emerita, is Honorary Chair for the event.

Tickets are priced \$75 each or \$70 each when purchasing two or more tickets. Call Trish Collins at (609) 652-4523 for ticket information or Yubi Pena at (609) 652-4382 to advertise in the program booklet. Tickets are also available online at [www.stockton.edu](http://www.stockton.edu) (In the Keyword and Search box, type in the keywords "Black Council").

**Brian K. Jackson** is the Executive Assistant to the President at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Prior to joining Stockton College in January 1998, Brian served as Manager of Administrative Planning, Budgeting and Research and as an adjunct instructor at Atlantic-Cape Community College.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts and raised in Tallahassee, Florida and Baltimore, Maryland, Brian credits his parents for encouraging him to attain his education and ultimately steering him to a career in higher education. Brian is a proud graduate of one of most prestigious as well as the third oldest high school in the nation, Baltimore City College High School. He also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics and Finance and an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University (the first to receive a master's degree in his family). Brian was selected as one of fifty emerging leaders in New Jersey to receive a 2007 Leadership New Jersey Fellowship.

An active and passionate volunteer, Brian serves on several community boards including Family Service Association, the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, Making Precious Strides, and the United Way of Atlantic County where he has chaired the Community Initiatives Committee for over seven years. Brian has received several awards and proclamations in recognition of his community service, including The Alan Angelo Award for Community Service and most recently the 2007 George Lynn Volunteer of the Year Award, presented annually by the United Way of Atlantic County to a volunteer who shows an extraordinary commitment to the organization and to the general well-being of the community.

Among his affiliations, Brian is a devoted member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and the Atlantic County Community Emerging Leaders. A member of the Council for ten years, Brian served as Second Vice President of the Council of Black Faculty & Staff for several years and played a vital role in the success of the Annual Awards Dinner and Dance and the establishment of the Council's Endowment with the Stockton College Foundation.

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**Dr. Thomasa González** is a committed social worker and educator. She currently serves as

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**Dr. Melaku Lakew** graduated from University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelors degree in Economics and Sociology. In 1980 he also received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Riverside. Before coming to Stockton he taught at University of California, Los Angeles and Portland State University in Oregon.

Melaku joined the economics program at Stockton in fall 1982 and served the college in various capacities. He has served as the coordinator of the economic programs, the president of the Council of Black Faculty and Staff, and chaired the Administration and Finance committee. It is estimated that Melaku taught more than 5000 students since he joined Stockton.

His scholarly works covers economic pedagogy, African economic development, the economics of immigration, and monetary theory. He has published in both Ameharic his native language

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Melaku received The Dusty Award from the Stockton Federation of Teachers in 2004, the Distinguished Service Award from The Tri-State Ethio Ider of Philadelphia and the Outstanding Leaders Award from the Greater Philadelphia Ethiopian community in 1997. Just recently the United Black Student Society recognized him through the Distinguished Faculty Award for many years of service in leading the South Africa study tour. He is also a recipient of Stockton's Merit Award.

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