

Stockton 35th Annual Scholarship Benefit Gala Nets Over \$300,000 to Help Students

Event Held April 25 at Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club

For Immediate Release; with photos on [flickr](#) and [video](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2015

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Galloway Township, NJ - Over 500 guests helped Stockton University students tonight at the 35th Annual Stockton University Scholarship Benefit Gala by raising a net amount of over \$300,000 for the Stockton Foundation.

“Scholarships for our students have been a top priority for me since I came to Stockton,” President Herman Saatkamp told donors. “So tonight, we’re celebrating your support of our students, and their success.”

“The Stockton University Foundation has grown tremendously in the last few years,” President Saatkamp added. “In 2003, we had less than \$3 million in assets. We’re now approaching close to \$29 million.”

Gala net proceeds go to the Stockton Benefit Gala Endowed Scholarship Fund, which prior to tonight’s event had grown to over \$2.9 million. Some 70 students received scholarships totaling \$80,000 last year from the endowed fund, which continues to grow.

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“Education means the world to me - it’s my starting point and without it, my future goals would seem impossible,” said Deanna Jackson, a sophomore from Ewing, NJ, majoring in Social Work with a concentration in Child Welfare and a minor in Africana Studies. She received a Council of Black Faculty & Staff Scholarship.

Naomi Madden of Barnegat, NJ, a senior majoring in Anthropology and Psychology and minoring in Jewish Studies, received the G. Larry James Legacy Scholarship and the Abraham Soltz Memorial Scholarship. “I am just so thankful for all of the different scholarships that I have been given by Stockton University,” she said, “and they have really impacted my ability to attend school here.” She said her family had moved 16 times in her 23 years, which did not allow them to save for college.

Caleb Bayewu, Maywood, NJ, a junior majoring in Biochemistry, said he was born in Nigeria and moved to the United States when he was 5 years old. He received a Council of Black Faculty & Staff Scholarship and said he plans to go to medical school after he finishes his undergraduate degree, which would not be possible without the help of scholarships.

Rick Walker, Chair of the Stockton Foundation and a scholarship donor, explained the importance of giving: “My wife, Millie, and I believe in the power of education and in higher education. Stockton University plays an important role in the community and provides opportunities for our students so they can do better things in the world. We enjoy being a part of that for Stockton students.”

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