

Stockton Trustees Name Peter Straub as New Dean of School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Board Gets Construction Update; Community Honors Late Gay Rights Advocate Laurel Hester, Developer Bart Blatstein for Their Contributions

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Galloway, NJ - Stockton University's Board of Trustees today named Peter Straub as dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NAMS).

"The Stockton community is delighted that Dr. Straub was chosen as the best candidate to head NAMS after a nationwide search," said President Harvey Kesselman. "Peter is an extraordinary scholar and administrator, and the perfect choice to lead our expansion of the Unified Science Center, which will add to the opportunities for world-class faculty and student research."

Straub is a Stockton alumnus who received his B.S. in Marine Science in 1980. He holds an M.S. in Marine Studies from the University of Delaware, where he also earned his Ph.D. in Marine Studies. Straub did post-doctoral work on Molecular Biology at Washington University in St. Louis.

"I am honored to be selected from what was a very talented pool of candidates," said Straub. "The School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics faces many challenges and opportunities moving forward. I am grateful to have earned the confidence of the university to undertake this new role."

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Strub has been the grants administrator for a large number of projects funded by local and federal agencies, including the Barnegat Bay Partnership/EPA, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He serves as the diving safety officer for Stockton and has served as the radiation safety officer for NAMS.

An update on construction plans in Atlantic City and on the Galloway campus was provided by Donald Hudson, associate vice president for Facilities and Construction.

Stockton is moving ahead with plans for a residential and academic campus in Atlantic City as part of the AC Gateway project on the site of the former Atlantic City High School.

The public-private development by the non-profit Atlantic City Development Corp. (AC Devco) would include a 56,000-square-foot academic building with on-site parking and housing for over 500 students.

Hudson said the project is in the schematic design phase, which is being performed by AC Devco and its design professionals. AC Devco expects to move into design development in mid-March and begin construction site work in May, Hudson said. The project is expected to be completed by the summer of 2018 and open that fall.

Various representatives of the university, including faculty, staff, cabinet members and members of the Board of Trustees, have toured AC Devco's projects on the Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick.

The N.J. Economic Development Authority has approved almost \$70 million in tax credits that would support the new campus. The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) has approved \$17 million, while the Atlantic County Improvement Authority has voted to help finance the campus with \$50.4 million in bonds.

Stockton would contribute \$18 million toward the development. The university also has applied for funding from the state Building Our Future Bond Act and the Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund Act to support the Atlantic City campus and the expansion of the Unified Science Center, construction of the new classroom building and other improvements on the Galloway campus.

Hudson said the architectural firm Perkins Eastman has completed plan modifications for the Unified Science Center 2 (USC2), the new classroom building and new Academic Quad

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Award-winning documentary, "Freeheld: The Laurel Hester Story," and the 2015 feature film, "Freeheld," starring