

Stockton Celebrates Civil Rights Legacy of Fannie Lou Hamer, Hears of Ongoing Struggle

Congresswoman, Panel Urges Students to Vote, Fight for Justice

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Galloway Township, NJ - Hundreds of

-continued from page 1 -

and as the board's chair from 1990-91, was introduced by Patricia Reid-Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work & Africana Studies, who organized the event.

Watson Coleman was the first African American woman to lead the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and served as the Majority Leader of the New Jersey General Assembly from 2006 to 2010. She represents the 12th congressional district, which includes municipalities in Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties.

Stockton is one of the few universities to celebrate the legacy of civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, on what would have been her 98th birthday.

Hamer helped organize the Mississippi Freedom Summer voter registration drive for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in 1964. She also helped found the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to oppose her state's all-white delegation at the 1964 Democratic Party Convention in Atlantic City. Hamer, who died in 1977, brought Mississippi's civil rights struggle to the national stage during a televised speech at the convention, which is seen as a turning point in the civil rights struggle.

Hamer famously said, after noting that slavery and its effects had already gone on for 300 years: "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired, and we want a change."

Interim President Harvey Kesselman praised Reid-Merritt's leadership and said Hamer's bravery "helps us to share her civil rights legacy with new generations of students."

Deanna Jackson, president of the Unified Black Students Society

-continued from page 2 -

elevation of other people.” He advocated taking organized action on many fronts, including street demonstrations and political activism.

Associate Professor of Philosophy Anne Pomeroy said that the counter-statement to “Black Lives Matter,” _ “All Lives Matter” is a false argument - a move of erasure. “White privilege is