

## **Stockton Holds Baccalaureate Commencement Ceremony with Speech by Patricia Reid-Merritt**

Longtime Faculty Member Receives Award as Nearly 700 Earn Degrees

***For Immediate Release; with photos on [flickr](#). Graduate list attached.***

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across the floor. Her husband, she said, felt “they have to live somewhere,” but that didn’t satisfy her.

So she decided to become “a mouse killer,” and she bought a trap and baited it with cheddar cheese.

But the next morning, “the box was open, the cheese was gone and no mouse!”

“And I thought, here’s the lesson I want to leave with these students.” If you use creativity and innovation as the mouse did: “There are no obstacles that are too big for you to overcome!”

Stockton President Harvey Kesselman presided over the Baccalaureate Commencement ceremony in the Sports Center. Nearly 700 summer and fall baccalaureate candidates earned degrees this month. The candidates from the schools of Arts and Humanities, Business, Education, General Studies, Health Science, Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Social and Behavioral Sciences were presented by Susan Davenport, interim provost and executive vice president of the university.

“Stockton has always been a place where you could plant yourself and grow,” said President Kesselman, a member of Stockton’s first class. “However, our new designation as a university signifies our continuing development as a distinctive institution of higher learning and reflects the university’s growing academic excellence at the baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral levels.

“The university’s reputation, recognized nationally and internationally, continues to mature as a high-value, high-quality institution. Stockton does this by retaining its fundamental values while also changing to meet the needs of today’s students,” he continued.

“Your Stockton education equips you with the skills to so i-2(o)10.5(g)-11.on Sk by 2.8(tedu8(tedu8(t.41 Td2( s

