

Stockton Student Exchange with European University Cyprus Earns Funding from Fulbright

Alumna Ciara Barrick Setting Up Program; Naijasia Thomas Will Tutor English as Exchange Student on Mediterranean Island Nation

For Immediate Release with photos attached, captions below

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Galloway , N.J. - Moving from South Jersey's Pinelands to an island nation of pines, cedars and cypresses may require some translation, but a new cultural exchange program with European University Cyprus (EUC) will enable Stockton students to be immersed in another culture while teaching English.

Ciara Barrick, who was awarded a Fulbright to teach English at EUC after graduating from Stockton in 2015, teamed with David Roessel, professor of Greek Language and Literature, to apply for a Fulbright Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund award to set up the exchange.

The Ocean City, N.J. resident's application was one of only 51 funded by the State Department, out of the more than 800 submitted by Fulbright alumni. It's also a first for the Republic of Cyprus, the third largest island in the Mediterranean.

Barrick will be working in Cyprus this spring to set up the program, in which one Stockton English tutor will work with EUC students, who come from variety of countries. A student from there will help set up a translation initiative at Stockton.

Naijasia Thomas, a junior majoring in Literature and minoring in Global Studies, will be the first exchange student next fall. Thomas had never traveled outside the United States before she went to Cyprus with other students last March, and it inspired her. She says she now plans to pursue a graduate degree in international relations after her tutoring stint.

"I'm from Newark, N.J., where it's not common for people go to college," Thomas said. "Being from a rough neighborhood and being able to see the world and do well in school makes me distinctive."

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-continued from page 2-

“Our students are great ambassadors for Stockton and the School of Arts and Humanities,” said Honaker. “They have really helped us foster good relationships with international partners and the travel and educational opportunities these relationships create change our students’ lives. So it’s wins all around.”

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