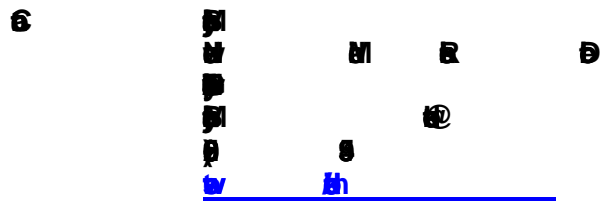




For Immediate Release ; **Coverage invited.**  
With list of graduates attached and editor's note at bottom;  
photo of Reid -Merritt attached .

Thursday, December 17, 2015



President Harvey Kesselman will preside over a Baccalaureate Commencement ceremony at Stockton University on which will include a keynote address by Patricia Reid-Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Africana Studies, long-time faculty member and a respected author, scholar, community activist and performing artist.

Reid-Merritt has served as a Ford Fellow with the National Council for Black Studies at the University of Ghana and on the Board of Directors of the National Council for Black Studies.

She chaired the committee that successfully advocated for the creation and 2012 installation of a statue to honor civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer in Ruleville, Miss., and continues to chair Stockton's annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium. Reid-Merritt is the

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initiated by Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music and developed by a committee of faculty, staff and alumni including Dean Lisa Honaker of the School of Arts and Humanities. The committee was chaired by Lynne Kesselman, Stockton alumna and wife of President Kesselman. Bud Noble, a Hollywood Hall of Fame composer and adjunct instructor