

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

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The Richard Stockton College of NJ Adds Two New Schools to Academic Offerings

In Response to Growth of College and the Community, Divisions
Become “Schools”

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Galloway Twp., NJ –The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is expanding and diversifying its academic offerings. President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said the College Board of Trustees approved a resolution to change the former Divisions of the College to Schools. The change will enable the College to increase degree programs and to allow each new School to operate more independently.

“This initiative is in response to the planned growth of the College, and is consistent with our mission to meet the educational needs of the region.” President Saatkamp said. According to the President, demand for such programs as Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies, the MBA and Education had prompted the resolution.

Two new Schools of the College -- the School of Business and the School of Education were established. Stockton’s former divisions are now formally designated as the School of Arts and Humanities, the School of General Studies, the School of Natural Studies and Mathematics, the School of Professional Studies, the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies.

President Saatkamp said Stockton’s master plan to increase enrollment by three percent annually had met the goals for the last three consecutive academic years. As a result, the College is acting to better meet the demands of its students and the regional economy. He said the move to schools also allows Stockton to offer innovations such as accelerated advanced degree programs. These 4 + 1 programs enable students to achieve both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s Degree in their major discipline in five years rather than the traditional six.

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Two such programs, the Master of Criminal Justice and the Master of Computational Sciences, are already in place. The latter degree enables students to combine study of their scientific discipline with an introduction to the sophisticated computational and mathematical modeling tools that allow them to explore intractable scientific problems. In addition, a third 4 + 1 program in Environmental Science is in the approval stage for implementation in September 2008.

The newest school, the School of Business, is an example of Stockton's adjustment to the changing landscape and educational needs of Southern New Jersey. Business has long been Stockton's largest major and its continued growth has kept pace with College enrollment. "As a School, we now have the independence and self-organization for our fully-engaged faculty to respond directly to community needs," said Dr. Janet Wagner, Dean of the new School of Business. "We are poised to work with employers to place interns and graduates with area businesses. In addition, collaboration is taking place with prominent local business people on community-based projects that focus on economic development of the area."

Likewise, the new School of Education is helping to train new teachers to address a growing teacher shortage and the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies is offering new training and professional development programs to assist employers and better prepare students for productive careers. Students also benefit from the change by earning degrees that are more widely recognized by employers.

"It is a win-win-win for students, faculty and the regional economy," Dr. Saatkamp said. "We are adding value into each and every degree we grant."

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