

## Stockton University Doctoral and Master's Graduates Urged: 'Never Stop Learning'

Elaine Bukowski, Professor of Physical Therapy, Speaks at Commencement

***For Immediate Release; with photos on [flickr](#); graduate list***

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**Galloway, N.J.** - Graduates at Stockton University's Doctoral and Master's Commencement today were urged to "never stop learning," and to "be the change in your world," by speaker Elaine Bukowski, a professor of Physical Therapy who has taught at Stockton for the past 29 years, including serving as director of the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, the university's first doctoral program.

Bukowski, who also has worked in a variety of settings in the United States and West Africa, including inpatient rehabilitation, oncology, nursing home, home care and outpatient physical therapy, told the graduates she was initially discouraged from applying to college.

"I remember being told early on in high school, 'take secretarial classes because you will never make it to college,'" she said. "I did not let that stop me. Here I am, many years and three degrees later. Remember: Set your goals high...and know that you can reach them, just like you have reached today's goal with your graduation."

Bukowski spoke to over 170 graduates, their families and friends in the Sports Center on the main Galloway campus, at the first ~~ssaover~~ ~~ex graduates~~ ~~participate~~ in the ceremonies, as members of the largest graduating class in Stockton's history.

Bukowski, who is also a practicing clinician providing pro bono services, talked about the orthopedic outpatient whose wife called later that day to say how much better he felt. She quoted Maya Angelou who said; "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

"The Stockton you entered is not the Stockton you are leaving," Bukowski continued. "**-more-**

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Stockton that has changed, as you apply the knowledge you have gained over these past few years you will create changes in people's lives, meaningful changes that make all the difference to them. This is the responsibility that comes with your degree. No matter how big or small the change, hopefully the people with whom you engage will remember how you made them feel.

"The world you live in today is very different from the world into which you were born," she continued. "All of your fields have witnessed many advances. Use them for the good of the people you serve. Never be afraid to try new things and look at your world in a new way."

Bukowski was awarded Stockton's Distinguished Service Award and professor emerita status by Trustee Raymond Ciccone during the ceremony. The award was "in recognition of Dr. Bukowski's outstanding leadership as a founding member of Stockton's Physical Therapy program and her enduring commitment to the health care industry," Ciccone said.

This year marks Stockton's fifth Spring Doctoral and Master's Commencement ceremony. Stockton currently has 14 graduate degree programs, serving over 800 students. The growing graduate program awarded its first degrees in 1999 with a Master's in Business Studies, and the first doctoral program, in Physical Therapy, was approved in 2006.

President Harvey Kesselman noted in his welcoming remarks that he is a member of Stockton's inaugural class and said, "Throughout our history, Stockton has remained committed to its mission of excellence in teaching, reinforced by support for scholarship and dedication to service.

"Although our footprint has changed over the past 47 years, our guarantee to students has been steadfast. Stockton has always been a place where students can plant themselves and grow," Kesselman continued. "Those familiar with Stockton's history know this as our first motto, an



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Patti McGill Peterson, presidential advisor for Global Initiatives at the American Council on Education (ACE), will be the keynote speaker at both the 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Baccalaureate ceremonies on Sunday. Peterson oversees work on the internationalization and global engagement of higher education for ACE, the major coordinating association for higher education institutions in the United States.

She is also president emerita at Wells College and St. Lawrence University, where she held presidencies from 1980 to 1996.

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