

Stockton Celebrates Its Past, Present and Future at Inauguration of President Harvey Kesselman

For Immediate Release; photos on [flickr](#); watch [Inauguration online](#); see coverage of

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“That story in one shape or form can be repeated over and over. Generations of Stockton

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sconversation with a student we passed by.

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percent in six. Nearly 90 percent of our graduates are employed or in graduate school within six months of commencement. These figures are among the best in New Jersey, and far above national averages.

“Recognizing the long-term and deep impact faculty members have on our students and on this community, I pledge to strengthen Stockton’s commitment to its faculty through further support. This is particularly relevant as our university enhances the manner in which we conduct our outreach, recruitment, mentoring and retention efforts of a diverse population of students, faculty and staff. This is fundamental to the overall learning experience at Stockton,” he said.

“We must continue to view the diversity of our campus community as an irreplaceable educational resource, one that enriches all of our lives. We must commit ourselves to providing the most comprehensive learning environment possible, one that will equip our students to lead and to contribute in a world of multiple perspectives, viewpoints and values. If we steadfastly intensify our efforts to support such inclusivity, then the tremendous promise of our academic institutions, and our nation, will fully actualize.”

The president talked about the expansion on the main campus and the new campus being built in Atlantic City.

“Here, on this pristine 2,000-acre Galloway campus, we’ll be opening two new academic buildings in the next two years, specifically designed to serve the needs of our burgeoning Natural Sciences and Health Sciences programs.”

He noted that plans for Atlantic City “have received significant local, regional and state support. This project is a physical, intellectual and financial demonstration of our long-term commitment to the vitality and prosperity of southern New Jersey. In many ways, it harkens back to our roots.”

Stockton’s growth in Atlantic City “will be - and must be - a collaboration,” with residents, business and community leaders and government officials, Kesselman said.

“Clearly, Stockton’s belief in supporting our region is resolute; it has always been an essential part of who we are. However, our commitment to the teaching-learning process must remain at the very core of everything that we do,” he continued.

“The magnificent faculty that surrounds this platform, and all of the incredible staff and administrators with whom I work each and every day - we are all responsible for inspiring a passion for learning in our students, and teaching them a sense of commitment to the enhancement of our society,” Kesselman said.

“If we keep all of our actions focused on just these two outcomes, we will have done our job, and have done it well.”

He asked all the alumni present to rise and be recognized, calling them “a living testament to these ideals.”

“I have had a front-row seat as the institution first defined its mission, and I’ve watched it grow and develop and respond to changes in education, industry, our region, and society,” Kesselman said. “I am deeply humbled and extraordinarily proud to be in a position to ensure that a Stockton degree becomes more valuable each and every day of my presidency. ***-more-***

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“The late Steve Jobs, co-founder and former CEO of Apple, once said, ‘The only way to do great work is to love what you do.’ Ladies and gentlemen, I love what I do and I love Stockton, and together, all of us can ensure that what began as that little college in the pines, warms our memories of the past, fires our imaginations in the present, and lights our dreams in the future.”

Music was provided by Christopher DiSanto, associate professor of Music; Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music; the Stockton Chamber Players; members of the Bay Atlantic Symphony; and students from the Stockton Classical Ensemble. Student Danielle Quinn led the singing of the national anthem and the Galloway Police Department Honor Guard took part in the ceremony. Sven Fetterman, a student and veteran, played the trumpet in the “To the Colors” flag ceremony.

The Atlantic City Fire Department “Sand Pipers” Pipe Band performed the processional, led by William Lubenow, Distinguished Professor of History, carrying the mace. Delegates from the faculty, alumni and other institutions took part in the procession, along with members of the Board of Trustees, cabinet, deans and speakers.

Portraits of Stockton’s first four presidents, Richard E. Bjork, Peter M. Mitchell, Vera King Farris, and Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., were unveiled at a reception following the ceremony. Kesselman had requested that the presidents’ portraits be painted to honor the contributions of each of his predecessors.

Members of the Bjork and Farris families helped unveil the portraits. View coverage of the [portraits’ unveiling](#).

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