

300 Volunteers from Stockton Tackle 14 Community Projects in Atlantic City

College Partners with Atlantic City, CRDA for 10th Day of Service

For Immediate Release ; with link to photos, captions

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Contact: Maryjane Briant
News & Media Relations Director
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4593

Galloway Township, NJ- Some 300 volunteers from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey worked on 14 Atlantic City community projects Saturday, including dune-grass planting, setting up for the Boardwalk Art Show, cleaning up lots and helping people register to vote.

The college's 10th Annual Day of Service took students, faculty and staff off the Galloway main campus to Atlantic City for a full day of community service, in partnership with the City of Atlantic City and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA).

"I'm delighted that Stockton is again engaged in a community-wide Fall Day of Service," said Stockton President Herman Saatkamp. "Like our MLK Day of Service in January, both events will celebrate 10 years of service and both have grown significantly, with hundreds of our students, faculty and staff taking a day 'off' to be 'on' by giving back to our community. Our Fall Day of Service really kicks off, in a significant way, the College's civic engagement activities which go on throughout the year, with the College community giving thousands of volunteer hours to the community. These are the kinds of activities which make me most proud to be president."

About 14 Stockton students gathered outside Boardwalk Hall Saturday morning, stopping passers-by to ask whether they were registered to vote and offering to register them if not.

"Voter registration is the megaphone that turns a complaint into action," explained Mico

-Continued for Page 1 -

Coalition for Civic Engagement.

Ben Peoples, a Political Science major who co-founded the coalition with Lucide, is a student member of the college's Board of Trustees. Peoples said the volunteers wanted to "give people the opportunity to go to the polls and vote for candidates they think will support what they believe."

Down at Maine and Atlantic avenues in the city's Inlet section, 43 student volunteers including members of Stockton's WaterWatch group and Anthropology Associate Professor Laurie Greene planted 2000 American Beach Grass plants. Their job was to "try to stabilize the beachhead here," after Hurricane Sandy washed away the rocks and landscaping, Greene said.

The CRDA donated the dune grass and provided the services of a landscaper who gave the volunteers a quick lesson on how to plant it, according to Jon Bitzer of the CRDA's Special Improvement District division, who was coordinating planting projects around the city.

Many of the students at the dune-grass planting were freshmen and this was their first time in Atlantic City.

"It's beautiful here on the water," said Julie Eller, a freshman Biology major in the Honors program from Caldwell, in Essex County. The Honors program includes a Service-Learning requirement, so volunteering was a g

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