

# **Stockton Project Helps Veteran Teachers to Mentor New Teachers in Somers Point, Mainland Districts**

State-Funded Program Aims to Retain 1st-Year Teachers, Build Leadership

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

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**Galloway**

students,” Week said. “This experience will be invaluable in Year Two, as they are matched with pre-service teachers from Stockton University and serve as mentors for these beginning teachers.”

Claudine Keenan, dean of Education at Stockton noted, “Teacher leadership continues to emerge in the national conversation as one pathway to strengthening student learning. We are grateful to the participants in this program and to the N.J. Department of Education for adding our state’s input to that national conversation.”

The state grant was accepted at Wednesday’s meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Emma Byrne, who is resigning effective Oct. 1 after serving as a trustee since 2005, was honored with a certificate of appreciation. Byrne is a retired director of Corporate Communications and Federal Affairs for PSEG (Public Service Enterprise Group) who also served as state director for U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley and as press secretary to Gov. Jim Florio, later becoming director of the N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs.

President Harvey Kesselman praised Byrne for “her innovative approach to problem-solving and her financial acumen.” Board Chair Madeleine Deininger told Byrne: “You were my secret weapon and a pillar of strength” in helping her transition to her new role as chair.

Byrne talked about advice Mother Teresa had once given a young woman from America who wrote offering to help her in India: “Thank you for your interest in our mission, but find your own Calcutta.”

Byrne said many people at Stockton have made the university their mission. She cited Deininger, a 1980 graduate whose “own life story parallels all that Stockton is,” and added of trustee and 1979 alumnus Raymond Ciccone: “I think there’s a special box of Stockton Wheaties that he eats every morning.”

She praised the many trustees she has worked with, and said of Kesselman: “He is the Stockton story. How grateful are we that he will begin the next chapter of the Stockton story on Friday (at his inauguration.) He chose Stockton as his own Calcutta.”

Maryam Sarhan of Somers Point, who is president of the Student Senate, also received a certificate of appreciation for her service as student trustee and alternate over the past two years. Kesselman praised her engagement as a strong leader and advocate who is passionate about social and political activism. In her remarks, the Political Science major thanked the board and the Stockton community and stated, “Each of you has given me something on my journey.”

She will graduate in May and said