

Stockton University:

New Name Highlights Evolution and Growth Of New Jersey's Distinctive Public University

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Galloway Township, NJ - Stockton University is New Jersey's newest institution of higher learning, as the Board of Trustees today voted to change Stockton's official designation and name from that of a college to a university.

"Since its founding in 1969, Stockton has had many names, but one consistent mission: excellence in teaching, dedication to learning, and a tradition of community service," said President Herman Saatkamp. "In becoming a university, we honor those values while continuing our journey as an environment for excellence and a partner in New Jersey's social and economic development."

Stockton has been known at various times as Richard Stockton State College, Stockton State, and most recently, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

The change was approved by Rochelle Hendricks, New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education, after research and study by her office and outside consultants, who visited the campus and recommended that Stockton be recognized as a comprehensive university. The Executive Committee of the New Jersey Presidents Council, made up of the presidents of the state's public, private and community colleges and universities that receive state aid, also voted for the change.

"It was with pleasure that I signed a letter approving Richard Stockton College's petition to be granted university status and to change its name to Stockton University," said New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks. "I congratulate the new university and know it will continue its strong commitment to academic excellence."

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Stockton for nearly two years. Faculty, staff, students, prospective students and parents, alumni and over 1,400 members of the public in South Jersey were surveyed, and “town hall” discussions were held.

The results of the surveys, independent research and other feedback led the Pan-College Task Force on University Status, comprised of faculty, staff, students, alumni and members of the community, to recommend in September 2014 that the change be pursued.

“The change from college to university status has been more than simply a reclassification. This decision has come after a great deal of critical thought and self-reflection by our community and perhaps this fact is what is most significant,” said Dr. Rodger Jackson, president of the Faculty Senate and a professor of Philosophy.

“We took our time to ensure that everyone had a chance to contribute, to give their input, to question, to debate. In so doing, we rejected the idea that others should decide who we are and reaffirmed our original Stockton ethos of an engaged academy forging its own future,” said Dr. Jackson.

“It’s great to be a part of Stockton history and most students are excited to be here for the transition,” said Carl Archut Jr., of Paulsboro, NJ, who is president of the Student Senate. “They feel that Stockton is really taking a step up.”

“Students were given an opportunity to voice their opinion on the idea of university status in a survey, and they were happy to be able to contribute to the conversation,” Archut continued. “Their concerns about Stockton’s culture, class sizes and tuition were all addressed, and as a student representative on the Pan-College Task Force, I felt confident in voting in favor of it. I’m excited to see where Stockton goes from here.”

Additional benefits of obtaining university status include:

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