

Richard Stockton College Professor Dr. Patricia Reid -Merritt Successfully Leads Drive for Fannie Lou Hamer Statue

Sculpture to Be Unveiled October 5 in Mississippi

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Galloway Township, NJ – Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Africana Studies at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, chaired the committee that successfully advocated for the creation and installation of a statue to honor civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer in Ruleville Mississippi.

For nine years, Reid-Merritt has also been a driving force behind the Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium, held each fall at Stockton.

“This has been a very long and arduous journey,” Reid-Merritt

challenge to her state's all-white and anti-civil rights delegation to the convention. Her efforts resulted in a resolution calling for equality of states' delegations at the 1968 convention.

A national fund-raising drive by the committee, which began in February of 2010, is nearing completion to cover the cost of the monument. The committee was formed in October, 2009.

"A very small group of scholars and community activists from across the nation worked on this project the last two years," Reid-Merritt said. "It is amazing to witness what a small group of dedicated individuals can do. We are overwhelmed and ecstatic to see