Stockton University Celebrates 600 Graduates at Fall Commencement

Stockton University is a family – one that gives its members a lot of support and expects them to do their best. This theme was repeated throughout the [Fall Baccalaureate Commencement](#) on Dec. 18, as nearly 600 graduates celebrated their cejkgxgo gpvu"cnqpi" ykvj"hc oknkgu."htkgpfu."wpkxgtukv{"qhŁekcnu."hcewnv{"cpf"uvchh0

Sonia Gonsalves, director of Academic Assessment and professor of Psychology, gave the keynote address in the Sports Center at what is expected to be the Wpkxgtukv{øu"Łpcn"Fgego dgt"Eq o o gpeg o gpv0

"We're living in a time of rapid, unprecedented and unpredictable change," said Iqpucnxgu0" õYjgp"K" cvvgpfgf" o {"Łtuv" Uvqekvqp" eq o o gpeg o gpv" 47" {gctu" c iq." human beings didn't tweet and 'Google' wasn't a verb.

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"One of those constant, timeless anchors is family," Gonsalves said, noting that in a team-building exercise earlier this year, "family" was the one word used by faculty and staff to best describe Stockton."

President Harvey Kesselman told graduates: "From the moment you decided to choose Stockton, you joined a group of people, a second family, if you will, who were and still are, committed to your success. At Stockton, we fully believe in these words, 'plant yourself where you can grow,' which to us is much more than a motto. It is a call to action. It is an expectation. But most important, it is a choice. It is a choice that landed you here today.

President Harvey Kesselman confers the Distinguished Service Award on commencement keynote speaker Sonia Gonsalves, director of Academic Assessment and professor of Psychology.

"As you move toward the next phase of your life, whether it's graduate school, pursuing volunteer service, establishing a career, and/or starting a family, you will face many life-altering choices…. When you are called to make those transformational choices, remember who you are and who you've become since your time here at Stockton University.

"Just remember, graduates: Making a dollar enriches you; making a difference enriches everyone," Kesselman said.

Gonsalves was presented with a Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership as professor of Psychology and director of Academic Assessment as well as for her role as educator, scholar and academic mentor, and her many professional contributions to Stockton University and to the State of New Jersey.

In November, 11 members of SUPD participated in No-Shave November, c"ecpegt"c y ctgpguu"ecwug."tckukpi"c"vqvcn"qh"&772"Rctvkekrcpvu"kpenwfgf<" Interim Chief Parker and Lt. Colleen Britton donated to the cause; Sgt. Anthony Lacovara, Sgt. Theodore Idell, Sgt. Michael Meyers, Sgt. Jarrod Verge, Ofc. Jacob Harris, Ofc. Cesar Luna, Ofc. John Moritz, Qhe0"Gtke"Owp{qp."Qhe0"Lqgn"Uq∥ngt."cpf"Engt{"QhĿegt"Tq"Ncvqtceec0

Interim Chief Parker, Sgt. Giovanni Maione; Sgt. Tracy Stuart; and Ofc. Amanda Reiser then participated in Shop with a Cop on Dec. 3. The event, organized by the Egg Harbor Township Police Athletic League, allows Atlantic County children to holiday shop with a cop in uniform at no cost to the children's families.

In addition to Shop with a Cop, a group of Stockton staff and alumni went shopping on Dec. 4 for toys in support of SUPD's annual Toys for

Pluchino, Circle K and Stockton Alumnus Raise $220 for Charity