



Senate President Sweeney, Assemblyman Rumpf Serve as 2013-14 Legislators-in-Residence at Stockton's Hughes Center for Public Policy

For Immediate Release

Monday, September 30, 2013

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Galloway Township, NJ- New Jersey State Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assemblyman Brian Rumpf will serve as Legislators-in-Residence at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey for the 2013-14 academic year, College President Herman Saatkamp announced today.

Assemblyman Rumpf will visit the Stockton campus to lecture and meet with the college community during the fall semester. The assemblyman, a Republican, represents the 9th Legislative District, in which Stockton College is located.

Senate President Sweeney, a Democrat representing the 3rd Legislative District, is scheduled to participate in the spring.

The Legislator-in-Residence program is sponsored by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. It brings New Jersey lawmakers to the Stockton campus to interact with faculty, students and staff, and to encourage civic and political engagement.

"This program provides the opportunity for Stockton students to learn about state government from some of the top leaders of New Jersey," President Saatkamp said. "And it allows state legislators to discover first-hand the impressive work being done at the college."

Sen. Sweeney was first elected to the upper legislative house in 2001, and he assumed the Senate presidency on Jan. 12, 2010. Prior to then, he had served as a Gloucester County freeholder and as freeholder director.

An ironworker by trade, Sen. Sweeney has championed labor issues and job creation, and sponsored laws to raise the minimum wage and to create the state's Paid Family Leave program.

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-continued from page 1-

The Senate president was at the center of passage of a 2 percent cap on property tax increases and reforms of public employee pension and health benefits aimed at saving \$120 billion over 30 years.

He also sponsored a law to spur offshore wind energy development and to pave the way for the state to become the nation's wind-energy manufacturing hub. He also supports farmland and open space preservation and funding to protect pristine land from development.

"These visits will allow in-depth discussions with students about New Jersey's legislative process," Sen. Sweeney said.

Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center, noted that Stockton's satellite instructional sites includes a Hammonton center just outside of the 3rd District and one in Manahawkin in the 9th District.

Assemblyman Rumpf began his first term in the Assembly on June 23, 2003. Before then, he served as a Little Egg Harbor Township committeeman and mayor.

While his district includes Galloway Township, home to Stockton College, much of it covers southern Ocean County. The assemblyman is interested in issues related to recovery from Superstorm Sandy as well as to the Barnegat Bay, waterways and the fishing industry. He has sponsored legislation to advance the interests of senior citizens and military veterans.

"It is truly a privilege to be named as Stockton's Legislator-In-Residence, which will provide me with the unique opportunity to participate in this engaging and innovative program," said Assemblyman Rumpf. "The program's goals are consistent with Stockton's tremendous reputation for enhancing students' interaction with government and other entities to enhance students' overall educational experience.

The assemblyman received his BA degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He received a Juris Doctor from Washington & Lee University School of Law in 1989.

Last year's Legislators-in-Residence were state Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and Sen. Chris Connors of the 9th District.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College> and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.

