



## **Hughes Center for Public Policy Scholarship Goes to Intern Working on Suicide Prevention**

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Contact: Maryjane Briant  
News and Media Relations Director  
Galloway Township, NJ 08205  
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu  
(609) 652-4593**

**Galloway, NJ** - Alyson Stevens, a Psychology major who is currently working as a public policy associate at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in Washington, D.C., has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Stevens, a senior from Jackson in Ocean County, has been evaluating federal and state policy, legislation and regulation to help the foundation formulate new strategies for preventing suicide.

"I also assist in the creation of strategies for broadening the base of grassroots advocates for suicide prevention," Stevens said of her internship. "This includes exploring new media and web-based opportunities to promote AFSP's mission."

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Washington, D.C. Internship program is an intensive para-professional and academic experience in which Stockton students live, work, and study in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Stockton is affiliated with the nation's largest internship organization, The Washington Center (TWC) for Internships and Academic Seminars.

The Hughes Center scholarship helps defray the cost of living in the nation's capital, making it possible for students to participate in internships.

Stevens, a student in the college's School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, is minoring in Gerontology and Holistic Health. She said that led her to "use my

background from Experimental Psychology to conduct research for alternative medicines in mental health” – something the foundation had not been discussing.

“Although I am only one small person, I believe I am contributing to a greater cause,” Stevens said. “Every day I come to work at AFSP, I know we are helping thousands of individuals.”

‘My entire D.C. experience has opened my mind to new ideas and future career paths,’ Stevens said. She said without the Hughes Center scholarship, “producing the funds to make this internship happen would have been extremely difficult.”

"Stockton College has more intern alumni through the Washington Center than any other college or university in the country," said Dr. Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science, who coordinates the program.

Since the mid-1970s more than 1,000 Stockton students have completed para-professional internships in Washington, D.C.

For more information, click on the Hughes Center’s Washington [internship program](#).

### **About the Hughes Center**

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy ([www.stockton.edu/hughescenter](http://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 on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College> and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.



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