

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Hughes Center at Stockton Seeking Nominations for Inaugural Civility in Government Awards

Nominating Committee Collecting Input
From Government, Civic Leaders and Public

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Galloway Township, NJ- The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is seeking nominations for its inaugural Civility in Government and Politics Award.

The award, to be presented at an annual dinner reception at Stockton's Campus Center, will recognize an appointed or elected New Jersey official that conducts the public's business with civility and respect for others. In addition to suggestions from a blue ribbon nomination committee and those solicited from over 100 leaders in government and academia, the Hughes Center welcomes nominations from the public. All net proceeds from the award dinner will be dedicated to the development of scholarships for deserving students enrolled in the College's Washington Internship program.

"After conducting lectures and events centered on the concept of civility in government and politics, we thought there should be an occasion to honor those who are engaged the right way," said Hughes Center Executive Director Sharon Schulman, who is also a member of the nominating committee. The panel also includes Ambassador William J. Hughes, former U.S. Ambassador to Panama, longtime area Congressional representative and namesake of the Hughes Center; James Saxton, a former longtime Congressional representative; Jennifer Young representing Verizon; Joe Donohue, deputy director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission; and Evelyn Ingargiola, student representative to the Hughes Center Steering Committee.

"The current public commentary bemoans the rise of extreme partisanship and lack of respect for opposing points of view. Attention getting sound bites have become substitutes for real discussions about policy and this gets in the way of good government," explained Ambassador Hughes. "We must join the discussion by offering positive examples of individuals who vigorously pursue their public goals, but do so without rancor," he said.

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According to Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., the Center's steering committee decided to name the award after Ambassador Hughes himself.

"There can be no finer example than Ambassador Hughes of a public servant putting the interests of his constituents' ahead of his own and ahead of political expediency," Dr. Saatkamp said. "The Ambassador has built an enviable reputation for his ability to legislate in an honorable and civil fashion. It is fitting that we have instituted the William J. Hughes Civility in Government and Politics Award and it is our hope that others will strive to achieve the Ambassador's standard."

According to Schulman, nominations are being sought after for individuals who are currently, or have been, in the public sector of New Jersey who consistently demonstrates a majority of the following characteristics while attaining the position and fulfilling his/her fundamental duty to represent constituents:

- Political discourse is based on facts.
- Respecting others' opinions without regard to political association.
- The government official and all representatives of the official (i.e., campaign and office staff) exhibit truthfulness as exhibited by candor, forthrightness and honesty when communicating with the public.
- Is inclusive in decision-making and policy development.
- Consistently exhibits behavior that is respectful and abstains from disruptive and/or abusive behavior.
- At all times acts with dignity, decency and courtesy.
- Strives to resolve human and societal problems in a rational, peaceful, and efficient manner.
- Strives for excellence.
- Recognizes the importance of cross-political party cooperation and encourages and practices actions that foster cooperation among political ideologies.

Schulman explained that the Hughes Center has mailed nominating information to approximately 100 public leaders in government and academia. Members of the public can also nominate someone who they think possess the characteristics described by downloading the nomination form at www.stockton.edu/hughescenter. All materials, including the completed nomination form and testimonial letters, must be submitted to the Hughes Center before June 15, 2011 at 5:00pm.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy 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.

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