

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Stockton College's Hughes Center to Examine 9/11 Attacks from Unique Perspective

Former Gov. Thomas H. Kean, Co-chair of 9/11 Commission, Will Interview  
John Farmer, Jr., Senior Counsel to the Commission and Author of  
*The Ground Truth: The Untold Story of America Under Attack on 9/11*

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** Roughly one year from the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attacks on America of September 11, 2001, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will present a unique perspective on the events of that fateful and tragic day in U.S. history.

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy of the College will bring former Gov. Thomas H. Kean, who co-chaired the federal government's 9/11 Commission, to the campus to interview John Farmer, Jr., senior counsel to the Commission and author of *The Ground Truth: The Untold Story of America Under Attack on 9/11*.

The event, "A Revealing Look at 9/11" will take place **6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 in the Elizabeth B. Alton Auditorium.** It is free and open to the public.

"This is a unique opportunity to hear Gov. Kean interview a key figure of the Commission he co-chaired," said Sharon Schulman, Hughes Center executive director. "As we approach the milestone first decade since the attacks, we have a better understanding of events leading up to that day and the implications post-9/11. Our event serves to engage and enlighten as our nation moves forward. Our students and community will be hearing true insiders' perspectives on the events of 9/11," Schulman said.

Thomas H. Kean was one of New Jersey's most popular governors, serving from 1982-1990. He was president of Drew University from 1990-2005. As governor he served on the President's Education Policy Advisory Committee, and as chair of the Education Commission of the States and the National Governor's Association Task Force on Teaching. At Drew, he served on such national committees and commissions as the American delegation to the United Nations Conference on Youth in Thailand and the President's Initiative on Race.

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John Farmer is currently the Dean of the Rutgers University - Newark School of Law. In addition to his work on the 9/11 Commission, Farmer served as attorney general of New Jersey, and chief counsel to Governor Christine Todd Whitman. A former federal prosecutor, law enforcement expert and special envoy for Middle East regional security, Farmer has researched the September 11 attacks at a level of very few individuals in the world.

In his book, Farmer concludes the command structure of the executive branch and military were ill-prepared to the attacks and that a bureaucratic hindrance remains to the “on the ground” way in crises are experienced and most effectively addressed. Moreover, the book maintains that misleading accounts by the administration and the military of key aspects of the air and ground response on 9/11 may have set the nation up to fail in response to future terrorist threats.

Farmer’s research draws not only on his work with the 9/11 Commission but also recently declassified documents, tapes and transcripts.

In a recent book review, *The New York Times* stated, “Farmer’s accomplishment is to throw 9/11 into fresh relief. A precise and reliable accounting of what happened has been absent until now. This is it.”

Stockton has long been an educational leader in the scholarly understanding of the 9/11 attacks. “Understanding September 11,” was a national award-winning course developed by Stockton Professors the late Paul Lyons and the late David Emmons. It examined the attacks from a variety of perspectives including what should be the U.S. role in the world; what is the nature of terrorism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; how did Afghanistan come to be the base for Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden; in what ways do fundamentalist beliefs in the Middle East breed hostility and terrorism directed at the West; and how has Sept. 11 changed American life?

Additionally, Stockton veteran-related enrollment has increased nearly 200 percent since the opening of its Office of Veteran Affairs and implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey seeks to inform and engage the community on key policy issues. Past events have included discussions on human trafficking, the impact of negative political campaigns, environmental and energy issues among others. Such speakers as presidential candidate Bill Richardson, Gov. and then - U.S. Attorney Chris Christie, and NJ Attorney General Anne Milgram have appeared at Hughes Center events. The Hughes Center, named in honor of former U.S. Ambassador to Panama and longtime Congressman William J. Hughes, also conducts polls with Zogby International and has hosted several political debates.

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