



## Newsletter - September 2016

### WELCOME!



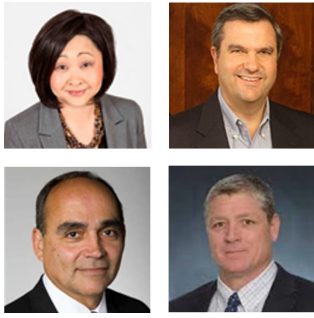
Welcome to the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy newsletter. In this issue, we introduce four new Steering Committee members, review research conducted by Dr. David Carr titled, "The Invisible Hand of Government," highlight keynote speaker Brian Levin on "Hate Crimes and Terrorism," talk about the College Outcomes Symposium facilitated by Dr. Darryl Greer, and recap a visit by Assemblyman Troy Singleton, the Hughes Center's most recent Legislator-in-Residence.

Please visit [www.stockton.edu/hughescenter](http://www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) to find out more about Hughes Center activities, research and publications.

Thank you for your continued support.

Cordially,

Sharon E. Schulman, Executive Director



**[Hughes Center Steering Committee Updates](#)**

Welcome to our new Steering Committee members.



**[Hughes Center Research](#)**

"The Invisible Hand of Government," research conducted by Dr. David Carr, finds that New Jerseyans often overlook the government benefits they receive.



**[Keynote by Brian Levin](#)**

Hate Crimes and Terrorism: Danger at Home and Abroad.



**[College Outcomes Symposium](#)**

The Hughes Center hosted a conference designed to explore students' academic success and civic awareness.



**[Legislator-in-Residence](#)**

Assemblyman Troy Singleton visited Stockton as the Hughes Center's Legislator-in-Residence.



**[Tell us what you think](#)**

Take a brief survey about the Hughes Center newsletter.

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**[New Steering Committee Members](#)**

**Le Phan:** Founder and CEO, Strategic Benefit Solutions (SBS)

Le Phan, Founder and CEO of Strategic Benefit Solutions (SBS), an MWBE Certified, full-service voluntary benefits firm, has a career spanning two decades in the voluntary benefits industry. SBS designs integrated and turnkey solutions that address the complex benefit needs of brokers, employers and end-users (employees) inclusive of benefit analysis and design, communication campaigns, employee engagement and enrollment, technology and on-going administration, with a focus on employee health and financial literacy. Her firm recognizes that the diversity of today's workforce demands a delivery model that is customizable and that offers a range of choices and options to address the varying needs of a diverse and stratified demographic.



Le Phan has designed and implemented voluntary benefit solutions for a wide array of clients ranging from the small market to the large market. She has worked with Fortune 100 and 500 companies and trade associations with up to 50,000 members.

Prior to founding Strategic Benefit Solutions, Phan was Practice Leader of a Voluntary Benefits Division at an M Financial Firm in the Baltimore, Md. area, where she led the marketing and the operating strategies of a multi-million dollar worksite business unit. She led independent marketing strategies for a voluntary worksite portfolio at The Abacus Group, and, as a leading producer, she held sales and management positions at GE Financial Assurance and Relia Star Life Insurance Company.

Phan holds her health and life license in multiple states, is Six Sigma Certified, and has a B.S. Degree in Finance from the University of Nebraska. She is a board member of the Workplace Benefits Association, and she has been featured in industry publications such as "Employee Benefit Advisor" and "Benefits Selling". Le Phan has also been featured at speaking engagements for Source Media and LIMRA conferences. She and SBS have a passion for giving back to the community and a dedication to helping Middle America become better consumers of their benefits.

**Ken Pustizzi:** SNJ Today Founder/President

A local New Jersey business leader and resident, Ken Pustizzi purchased WSNJ AM 1240 radio station and contracted to manage SNJ Today Comcast Cable Television Channel 22 in 2014. Responsible for the overall direction and management, the entrepreneur's goal was to build upon these resources and create an improved traditional and new media communications and marketing company. To build a new media resource for the region, the company is working to expand programming on both the radio and television stations and enhance listening/viewing options through Internet streaming, including on demand access for preferred programming. As a distinguished business owner, philanthropist and genuinely nice guy, Ken is also adamant about, and repeatedly says that, "Quality work is done by quality people." He's gathered a "world series" winning team at SNJ Today.



**Michael J. Renna:** President and Chief Executive Officer of South Jersey Industries

As President and Chief Executive Officer of South Jersey Industries, Mike Renna is at the helm of one of New Jersey's most dynamic and successful energy companies. Renna joined SJI in 1998 and through his hard work and commitment to success, he advanced through a number of managerial and professional positions. Prior to his leadership role at SJI, Mike held the titles of president of South Jersey Energy Solutions and South Jersey Energy, the region's largest energy marketer. Mike was appointed to the South Jersey Energy Solutions executive committee in November 2012 and to the SJI board of directors in 2014. An alumnus of the University of Delaware, where he earned his undergraduate degree in Finance, Mike also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Cornell University. He serves on various boards of directors including the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, and Choose New Jersey. Additionally, Mike is a member of the CEO Council for Growth's Greater Philadelphia Energy Action Team. He also sits on the board of trustees for Monmouth University and participates in the University of Delaware's Student Mentoring Program.



**José Sosa:** President, Sosa Capital Group, LLC

José Sosa brings a wealth of experience in the areas of business development, management consulting, and alliance and advocacy development programs in multiple industries. His business experiences include creation of multicultural partnerships that bridge the common interests of the public and private sectors and assisting clients in creating social marketing programs that will result in mutually beneficial outcomes to diverse communities and to sponsoring organizations. José has also developed political and social outreach strategies designed to improve relationships between elected officials and the Hispanic community. In addition to management and business developing consulting, Sosa is also involved in the marketing of insurance products in the multicultural business communities.



During his 15-year career at Johnson & Johnson, José served as Director of External Affairs-Corporate Government Affairs and was responsible for developing strategic alliances with local, state and national multicultural leaders and organizations; in this position, he succeeded in creating healthcare awareness partnerships and gaining the support of community-based organizations on issues of mutual importance. In 2004, Latino Leaders Magazine named Sosa as one of the Top 10 Leaders in Healthcare.

As Director of State Government Affairs at Johnson & Johnson, Sosa earned the company's highest award for performance.

José served in the New Jersey General Assembly from January 1992 to January 1994. As the prime sponsor of successful legislation to reduce the New Jersey State Sales Tax and other legislation aimed at bolstering the state's economy, he served his term as the highest-ranking Republican of Puerto Rican descent in the United States. A former Vice Chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee, Sosa was tapped as a leading spokesman for the Republican National Committee during the 1992 presidential campaign and was a keynote speaker at its national convention.

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## Hughes Center Research

Many New Jersey residents do not recognize the government benefits they receive, according to a study done by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University. Almost 60 percent of pollees denied ever having benefited from the services of a government social program. Yet 68 percent of these respondents had participated in one or more programs. These benefits are often invisible, either because recipients view them as entitlements or because they are delivered indirectly rather than through government bureaucracies.



Survey results suggest that respondents' recognition that they are participating in a governmental social program varies widely by program characteristics and means of implementation. New Jersey residents were most aware of the traditional social support programs targeting the needs of the economically disadvantaged. They were much less likely to identify programs such as Social Security, Unemployment Benefits, Student Loans, or the Home Mortgage Interest Deduction as government social programs. Attitudes and beliefs about such programs can have a noticeable and far-reaching impact, as citizens' political choices are likely to be affected by their perception of governmental social service policy.

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## Hate Crimes and Terrorism: Danger at Home and Abroad

Brian Levin, a nationally renowned expert on hate crimes and terrorism, spoke to a sizable audience in March, in an event sponsored by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Speaking on what turned out to be the eve of terrorist attacks in Brussels, Belgium, Levin noted the constant risks the United States faces from hate crimes and terrorism, both domestic and international.



While he declined to make a prediction about the upcoming presidential election, Levin said in answer to a question from the audience that another terror attack during the campaign would increase the number of people favoring an authoritarian candidate, even if the policies put into place are unconventional and overbearing. Levin also criticized the political climate in which leaders promote strife and conflict by pitting different cultures against each other.

Levin pointed out that there are 40 documented hate groups in New Jersey, and even some local ones, such as the A.C. Skins, which are active in Galloway, Egg Harbor, Atlantic City and Absecon.

Levin is a court-certified expert on extremism in both the United States and the United Kingdom. He has testified before Congress and consulted for state and federal agencies including the FBI and Department of Homeland Security, as well as for universities and civil rights groups.

Levin is the author, co-author and editor of various books, scholarly articles, training manuals and studies on extremism and hate crime. He has written various amicus briefs for U.S. Supreme Court cases, including the landmark case *Wisconsin v. Mitchell*, where he presented criminological data establishing the severity and characteristics of hate crime. Levin is a professor and director of the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at Cal State.

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## College Outcomes Symposium

On June 15, 2016 the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University hosted the College Outcomes Symposium, a conference designed to explore students' academic success, workforce participation, and civic awareness. The meeting was attended by more than 200 career counselors, academic advisers, admissions counselors and employers from 32 colleges and universities.



Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman was joined on the leadership panel by David Payne, vice president and chief operating officer of Educational Testing Service Global Education Division, and by Hasani C. Carter, the state director of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) within the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. David Payne focused on student outcomes from a global perspective, and stressed ongoing efforts to measure outcomes in a meaningful way for students, educators, and employers. Carter outlined the College Success

Collaborative, an initiative of Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks, which involves higher education and community-based organizations.

Darryl Greer, Senior Fellow of the Hughes Center's Higher Education and Strategic Information and Governance (HESIG) project, presented research on student attitudes toward college value and on counseling and advising services. The HESIG research reveals that 30 percent of recent college graduates believe the most important college outcome is to improve career prospects, and one third say colleges are doing extremely well in furthering those aims.

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## Assemblyman Troy Singleton: Legislator-in-Residence

New Jersey Democratic Assemblyman Troy Singleton visited Stockton University on Tuesday, March 1 as the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy's Legislator-in-Residence.

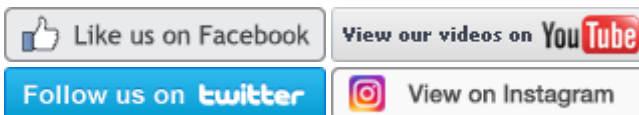
Singleton, of Palmyra, N.J., was first sworn into the New Jersey General Assembly on November 21, 2011, in order to complete the unexpired term of Jack Conners. Singleton represents the 7th Legislative District, which includes many municipalities in Burlington County, N.J.



After a tour of the Campus Center, which was jointly conducted by Pedro J. Santana, dean of Students, and John Froomjian, senior research associate of the Hughes Center, Singleton met with student veterans and also with Tom O'Donnell, assistant dean of Students/Veteran Affairs/Leadership, and talked to them about various programs and opportunities available to veterans, relevant legislation, and pressing issues that require immediate attention. Students shared their positive experiences with the variety of services that are provided to student veterans at Stockton. Singleton also had an engaging meeting with members of the Student Senate.

Assemblyman Singleton also participated in Assistant Professor of Political Science Daniel Mallinson's "State and Local Government" class and also sat in on a lecture in "Introduction to American Politics", taught by Assistant Professor of Political Science Claire Abernathy.

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**STOCKTON** UNIVERSITY | WILLIAM J. HUGHES CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

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