STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Stockton Receives Nearly $3.5 Million in Board of Public Utilities Grant Funding for Solar Panel Project

Photovoltaic Panels Mounted on "Carports" in Parking Lot to Be One of the Largest Projects of its Kind in United States; Energy Savings to Pay for Installation

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey was one of seven grant recipients statewide for renewable energy projects on campus. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities awarded Stockton $3.46 million through the state's "Innovation in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – Public Entities" program. Sixty-four proposals from state agencies competed for a share of a total of $20.6 million total available funds from the State Energy Program. Funding for this program was requested by the state through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The funds will be used for several innovative energy-saving projects including the construction of "carports" on supporting photovoltaic panels on the North Parking Lot of the Galloway Township campus. LED lighting to will replace existing metal halide and fluorescent fixtures, and solar hot water heaters and improved energy management systems will be introduced in college residence halls.

The funds represent the largest single grant for construction projects in Stockton's history. The grant is also Stockton's first allocation of federal economic stimulus funding.

"Naturally we are pleased to have been recognized for our environmental stewardship, which has always been a priority at Stockton," said Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., President of the College. "The funding will allow us to re-invest in sustainable technology for a greater return in energy efficiency. Projects such as this one demonstrate our commitment to the green movement and to the responsible use of tax and tuition dollars."

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The grant funds will enable the College to continue building more carports in the parking lot which will initially total 930 parking spaces. As an immediate benefit, students and staff who park in these spaces have protection from the elements year round. Parking in the shade keeps cars approximately 15 degrees cooler in the summer months, and the covering protects cars from winter ice and snow.

Long-range benefits of the project are even more impressive. "In the first year alone, the project is expected to generate 535,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, worth approximately $90,950. The LED lighting upgrade and the remote HVAC controls installation for the Housing I complex will bring a total savings of $128,607 in the first calendar year. Electricity generated by the panels produces revenue for the College, proceeds that will be re-invested in the purchase of more solar panels in phases over 15 years," said Harry Collins, Stockton's Director of Facilities Planning. "The more panels we add creates an exponential effect on the cost-savings," Collins said. "As the panels are added, solar power will eventually generate 2031 megawatt hours of electricity per year or 60 percent of the residential energy power needs on the portion of the campus located across Lake Fred." This area, known as the North Housing Complex, includes Housing Complexes I, IV and V, and a computer lab.

Collins said the New Jersey Energy Master Plan calls for the generation of 30 percent of the state's energy needs from renewable sources by 2020. With the completion of the project Stockton will *double* this goal level to 60 percent. Initially, the project will produce 11 percent of the North Housing Complex's electricity.

Other benefits of the installation:

- The project serves as a model for other schools and building complexes.
- The college's "carbon footprint" associated with the use of electricity will be reduced by 66,269 pounds in the first year and 252,220 pounds by year 15. These figures represent 10 percent and 48 percent of the North Housing Complex's carbon footprint, respectively.
- On-site generation of electricity reduces Stockton's reliance on the existing regional energy grid.
- The project reduces Stockton's peak demand and thus helps prevent brownouts and power loss.
- The project increases the predictability of Stockton's energy costs, enabling greater allocation of funding for academic projects and critical College services.
- Renewable generation of electricity reduces the discharge of precursors to acid rain, particulate matter and airborne toxic material.
- The project will directly create seven jobs and be instrumental in the indirect creation of 30 jobs.

The solar carport project is the latest innovation at Stockton, New Jersey's "Green College". Stockton is home to one of the nation's largest geothermal heating and cooling system, a unique Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage (ATES) system, which stores cold water for air conditioning; wind energy projects in conjunction with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, and building projects that meet the highest standard in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the United States Green Building Council.

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