



## Newsletter - Fall 2017

Welcome to the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy newsletter. In this issue:



- Hughes Center Honors, November 9th.
- A visit by the Hughes Center's most recent Legislator-in-Residence.
- Meet three new Steering Committee members.
- Review research conducted by faculty members.
- Read the South Jersey Economic Review.

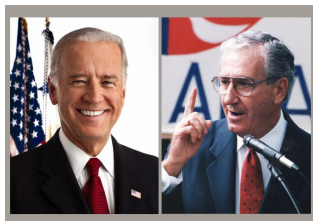
*Join us as Vice President Joe Biden presents the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award to our namesake, Ambassador William J. Hughes.*

Thank you for your continued support.

Cordially,

Sharon E. Schulman, Executive Director

## Hughes Center Honors 2017



### [Hughes Center Honors](#)

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017  
Reception 5:30 p.m.  
Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf  
Club, Bayview Ballroom



### [Hughes Center Honorees](#)

Learn more about the  
accomplishments of the 2017  
honorees.



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

Senator James Beach visited  
Stockton as the Hughes Center's  
Legislator-in-Residence.



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

Welcome to our new Steering Committee members.



### [Hughes Center Research](#)

Learn about the latest findings from the Hughes Center.



### [South Jersey Economic Review](#)

Read the latest issue.

## Hughes Center Honors

On November 9, 2017 at 5:30 p.m., the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University will host the Hughes Center Honors at Stockton-Seaview Hotel & Golf Club in Galloway, NJ. Ambassador William J. Hughes will receive the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award, which will be presented by former Vice President Joe Biden.



Sharon Schulman, executive director of the Hughes Center, said the center's Steering Committee and program organizers felt strongly that Ambassador Hughes' career and accomplishments easily meet the high standards represented by the Lifetime Achievement Award. Hughes, 84, a former prosecutor in Cape May County, represented South Jersey's 2nd Congressional District in the House of Representatives from 1975 to 1995, and later served as ambassador to Panama. His legislative accomplishments include passage of a ban on ocean dumping and major anti-crime laws. Hughes co-authored the act that preserved the New Jersey pinelands from development and separately secured Wild and Scenic River status for the Manumuskin and Menantico rivers. He worked to prevent the FAA Technical Center, which is now named after Hughes, from relocating to Oklahoma. The center stayed in Atlantic County, and developed into the nation's premier aviation testing facility.

Among the other honorees is **Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman**, the first African-American woman to serve as Assembly Majority Leader and as Democratic State Committee chair; **Senator Diane Allen**, who served briefly in the State Assembly before serving a lengthy term as a New Jersey state senator; **Jim Whelan**, former Atlantic City mayor, state assemblyman, and New Jersey senator, who will receive a posthumous award; **Dr. Brigid Callahan Harrison**, professor of Political Science and Law at Montclair State University, political commentator, author, and an alumna of Stockton University; **Maryam Sarhan**, a recent graduate of Stockton University who served as Student Senate President and who is currently a Congressional fellow in Washington, D.C.

The event is open to the public and sponsorships are available at various levels. Net proceeds will benefit the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy Endowed Fund. To purchase tickets or for more information about the Honors, visit the Hughes Center website at: [stockton.edu/hughes-center](http://stockton.edu/hughes-center). Please RSVP by October 24.

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## Legislator-in-Residence: Senator James Beach

State Sen. James Beach, representative from the 6th Legislative District, visited Stockton University on Sept. 26-27 as the Legislator-in-Residence, a bipartisan program hosted by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy that features visits from legislators from alternating parties.

Beach toured the Campus Center before meeting with Jason Babin, director of the Office of Veteran & Military Services, and student veterans, who spoke about veterans services and health care. He thanked the veterans for their service, as he did in every class he visited in which a veteran was a student. Beach is chairman of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee and a member of the Education Committee.



On the second day of his visit, the senator attended classes, including Tools for Social Change, taught by Adjunct Instructor Rona Whitehead; Introduction to Politics, taught by Assistant Professor of Political Science (POLS) Lauren Balasco; and Group Politics, taught by Assistant Professor of POLS Claire Abernathy. He also had lunch with President Harvey Kesselman and other members of University leadership.

Beach paid a visit to the Coastal Research Center, where director Stewart Farrell and staff shared research on erosion along the New Jersey coast. He also toured the Stockton Polling Institute and the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy and met with Hughes Center Executive Director Sharon Schulman.

"The Legislator-in-Residence program provides valuable opportunities for Stockton students, faculty and staff to learn first-hand about politics, policy and state law," said John Froomjian, who organized the visit and accompanied the senator throughout his visit. "It's also a great way for state lawmakers to get to know Stockton."

A former teacher, guidance counselor and school administrator, Beach said it was exciting to be back in the classroom talking with students and faculty and he was impressed with their enthusiasm and interest.

"It was very refreshing to meet with young people who are our future leaders," he said. He was also impressed with the diversity of academic offerings at Stockton.

Beach was especially interested in the high school dual-credit program, and said he would like to connect school superintendents in his district with Stockton staff to learn more about such specialized courses such as Holocaust and Genocide Studies for high school students. Past legislators-in-residence have included Senate President Steven Sweeney, former Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and Senators Loretta Weinberg, Jim Whelan, Joseph Kyrillos and Chris Connors, a Stockton graduate.

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## New Steering Committee Members

**Mark Giannantonio:** *President and CEO, Resorts Casino Hotel*

Mark Giannantonio brings more than 30 years of Atlantic City gaming expertise to his role as President & CEO for Resorts Casino Hotel. He joined Resorts in September 2012 when it was announced that Mohegan Sun would take over the management of the property.

Before joining Resorts Casino Hotel, Giannantonio was a Senior Gaming Consultant with Spectrum Gaming, where he applied his experience in a more global atmosphere. He previously held various executive positions within the casino industry, most recently as President & CEO of Tropicana Casino & Resort.

A lifetime Atlantic County resident, Giannantonio serves on the Board of the New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA). He is also an Advisory Board Member of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism (LIGHT) at Stockton University and on the Board of the Atlantic City Police Foundation. Additionally, he serves on the Steering Committee of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Giannantonio is a proud graduate of Stockton University, Class of 1987. He currently resides in Northfield, New Jersey with his wife and two sons.



**William C. Sproule:** *President, Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters*

William Sproule is the President & New Jersey Regional Manager for the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters (NRCC). (NRCC) represents nearly 40,000 hardworking men and women in Delaware and New Jersey and portions of Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania. NRCC is one of the largest trade unions on the East Coast.

As the President & Regional Manager of NRCC, Sproule's duties include: assisting the Council's Executive Secretary-Treasurer with the development of the organization's policies and procedures; overseeing all of the day-to-day operations for the Council's local unions in New Jersey's 21 counties; developing Collective Bargaining agreements; and organizing and expanding work opportunities for union membership.

William worked his way up through the ranks as an apprentice carpenter in the former Atlantic City Local 623 in 1989 and had the opportunity to be a part of building a large majority of the casino and infrastructure projects in Atlantic City including: Bally's, Caesars, Harrahs and the Taj Mahal. His most notable work in the City includes the development of the \$330 million dollar Brigantine Tunnel Connector, where he served as Shop Steward for 90 carpenters.

Sproule was hired by the organization in 1999 as a Council Representative. Since then, he has worked his way into mid-level leadership positions and served on his local's Executive Board. In 2008, William was promoted to Organizing Director and in 2011 New Jersey Regional Manager. During his time with the organization, he has helped to oversee and facilitate two large mergers of the Empire State Council and Metropolitan Regional Council into the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters.

William serves on the NRCC Executive Board and is also a Board Member on the NRCC Scholarship Committee as well as being a trustee on the Northeast Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund and the Executive Finance Committee. He serves as a Board Member on the NJ Building Authority, serving his second term. Sproule has also helped to raise money for the Special Olympics, South Jersey Cancer Fund and Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Fund.

William has also been involved in coaching baseball and softball as well as numerous volunteer projects over the years. In 2010, he and a large group of union carpenters - along with Vietnam Veterans of America Post 955, American Legion Post 184 and the City of Wildwood - helped to construct the replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Wildwood, New Jersey. The monument, which is one-third of the size of the official Memorial in Washington D.C., is constructed of reinforced concrete and laminated with black granite panels. It displays the names of more than 58,000 service members killed in the Vietnam War. One of those panels bears the name of First LT William C. Sproule, Jr., William's father, who was a rifle platoon leader in the Army's 173 Airborne Brigade and was killed in action on May 10, 1968 and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



William's hobbies include spending time with his family, attending his children's sports events, exercise and weight training, fishing, guitar, carpentry, golf, surfing, and reading about topics such as History, Labor Law, Politics and current local, national and world affairs. He is married and resides in Smithville with his wife, Amy, and two children, Emily and Billy.

**Bill Watt:** *Student Senate Government Affairs Committee Chair, Stockton University*

Bill Watt is a Junior at Stockton University pursuing a Political Science and Economics double major with minors in Global Studies and Information Systems. On campus, Bill serves an executive role in the Stockton University Student Senate, the Argo, Model UN club, Stockton Model Congress, and the Stockton Tennis club. Mr. Watt began writing for the Argo in Spring of 2017 upon his return from a semester in Washington D.C and is also the advertising and business manager. Bill has a passion for communication, business, and international diplomacy and looks to get more students involved in the Stockton community.



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## Hughes Center Research

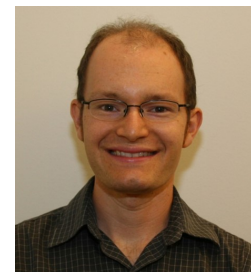
### **Sustainable Economic Development: The Role of Child Care**

In [Sustainable Economic Development: The Role of Child Care](#), Dr. Ellen Mutari, Professor of Economics at Stockton University finds that of critical importance to the ultimate success of sustainable economic development is the recognition that such resources are not necessarily inexhaustible. Thus continuous reinvestment in natural, human, and social capital, in addition to financial capital and manufactured (physical) capital, is necessary to achieve prolonged economic growth. Of central importance in this theory is the role played by the child care industry, which has a multifaceted impact on the economic development of the region. For example, social infrastructure is boosted by allowing parents to devote more time and attention to their jobs, while the children themselves also reap the benefit of being better prepared to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Harnessing the power of the child care sector, a \$1.8 billion industry in the State of New Jersey, would go a long way towards establishing economically diverse and livable communities.



### **Election 2017: The Policy Priorities of New Jersey College Students**

Dr. Daniel Mallinson's report [Election 2017: The Policy Priorities of New Jersey College Students](#) was released by the Hughes Center for Public Policy in July. The report focused mainly on the opinions and viewpoints held by young college students across the state. Surveys asked the students to share their thoughts on what they perceive to be the most pressing issues facing New Jersey, and especially how these might impact the typical college student demographic. Criminal justice reform, the opioid epidemic, taxes, investment in higher education, and the underfunded pension obligation were among the most commonly mentioned, and how the incoming government of New Jersey treats these issues will likely affect many students' decisions of whether to remain in New Jersey and contribute, or to leave. The report notes that paradoxically, considering the importance of today's college students to the development and success of the next generation, young people in this age group are least likely to be politically engaged, and the report therefore addresses various ways that public institutions can encourage



student civic engagement beyond voting and have student voices heard on pressing public policy matters.

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## South Jersey Economic Review



Since its inception more than ten years ago, the South Jersey Economic Review (SJER) has been committed to providing the region's stakeholders and policymakers with timely, high-quality research that focuses on the Southern New Jersey regional economy. Over the course of its history, the Review has provided in-depth analyses of the regional economy's health care, construction, retail trade, and gaming industries. It has also explored key trends in the region's labor force, demographics, and wages. Economic diversification has also been a key focus of the SJER. The SJER is published bi-annually under the aegis of Stockton University's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Included in SJER's latest issue are articles entitled "Atlantic City's Redevelopment: Digging out from a lost decade"; "In Search of Viable Redevelopment Models"; "Merchandise Good Exports' Potential Role in Redevelopment"; and "Atlantic City's Millennial Bet".

Learn more: [stockton.edu/hughes-center](http://stockton.edu/hughes-center)

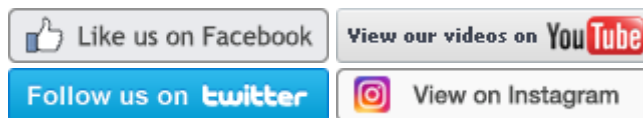
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## Tell us what you think

Take a brief [survey](#) about the Hughes Center newsletter.



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