



WILLIAM J. HUGHES CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



MARCH 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The last few months have been a whirl of activity for the Hughes Center, including extensive polling in the general elections and important policy discussions with the Affordable Care Act Forum just a week after Election Day. Those of you who fancy intrigue in your politics, the Bridgegate scandal provides more than enough

opportunities to indulge your taste in conspiracy theories worthy of a spy novel or the fictional story lines of the "House of Cards" series.

The Hughes Center is going to be adamant that we need to remind policymakers to "stay in their lanes." The opportunities for distraction are great, but the business of New Jersey government needs to go on. Budgets need to be approved, appointments made and confirmed, and the delivery of fundamental government services maintained. Yet, the actual investigations by the Legislature and by the U.S. Attorney are important in finding facts, improving government and if need be, uncovering crimes.

To the Legislature, to the Governor, to the media – stay in your lanes.

Dan Douglas

Daniel J. Douglas, Director

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HEALTH CARE FORUM



Stockton President Saatkamp welcomes ACA forum participants

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) Forum, cosponsored by the School of Health Sciences and the Hughes Center in November 2013, attracted 600 participants from the general public and the Stockton College community.

A panel answered questions from the audience, and counselors were present to help attendees enroll in a health care program.

Dr. Jaime Torres, Health and Human Services regional director for New Jersey, outlined the problems the ACA was designed to solve and explained its benefits. He said that in 2009, the United States spent 16 percent of gross national product on health care costs, and 50 million Americans were uninsured.

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MAJOR ENDOWMENTS

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Chazen Mr. & Mrs. William J. Hughes and Family

- South Jersey Industries
- New Jersey American Water Company
- Atlantic City Electric Company
- Mr. & Mrs. Steve Batzer
- Exelon Corp.
- New Jersey American Water Company
- Public Service Enterprise Group
- Salmon Ventures Limited
- Thomas H. Heist Family
- Tribhuvan & Nandita Singh
- Verizon



About 600 professionals and members of the public attend the ACA forum on November 14

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Dr. Torres said the ACA, signed by President Obama in 2010 and upheld by the Supreme Court last year, will protect Americans from abuses by insurers and improve access and quality of care.

Stockton College President Herman Saatkamp termed the ACA “the most important health care policy initiative since Medicare.”

The Hughes Center and Stockton’s School of Health Sciences co-sponsored the forum in the Campus Center Event Room on November 14.

Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center, convened the forum, and Interim Dean Bess Kathrins of the School of Health Sciences moderated the panel discussion and question-and-answer session.

In addition to Dr. Torres, the panel included State Sen. Jim Whelan, D-2nd, Steven Blumberg, senior vice president and executive



Dr. Jaime Torres, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

director of AtlantiCare Health Solutions, and Justine Ceserano, New Jersey state director for Enroll America, a non-partisan nonprofit organization whose mission is to maximize the number of uninsured Americans who enroll in health coverage under the ACA.

Sen. Whelan said he thinks the ACA is starting to slow health care costs but “not quickly enough, yet.” He blamed the health care and insurance industries for driving up costs, while doctors are not making that much money.

AtlantiCare’s Blumberg said early intervention and the preventative care the ACA allows saves dollars and will provide better care. He said AtlantiCare had seen a reduction in workforce medical costs by taking this approach.

Justine Ceserano, of Enroll America, said, “I am very impressed with the ACA’s impact on individuals.” She said 350,000 New Jerseyans will be eligible with the expansion of Medicaid and people with pre-existing medical conditions will be able to get coverage.

She added that young people are having a hard time finding jobs with benefits, so being able to stay on their parents’ insurance is important.



Senator Jim Whelan discusses health care costs

LEGISLATOR IN RESIDENCE



Assemblyman Brian Rumpf, a 9th District Republican, served as Legislator-in-Residence for Stockton College during the fall semester.

The Legislator-in-Residence program is sponsored by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. It brings New Jersey lawmakers to the Stockton campus to interact with faculty, students and staff, and to encourage civic and

political engagement. Senate President Steven Sweeney will be the Legislator in Residence during the spring semester.

Stockton College is in the legislative district represented by Assemblyman Rumpf.

Rumpf met with students, faculty, and staff members to learn first-hand about activities and programs at the college while he was on the Stockton campus on Oct. 30, 2013.

Senior Research Associate John Froomjian of the Hughes Center and several Stockton students who work for the Stockton Polling Institute gave the assemblyman an overview of polling operations on the campus. The group met in the Polling Institute's call center in N wing.

Rumpf met with Robert McNeill Jr. to discuss continuing education with a focus on Stockton's Center for Public Safety and Security. He also met with Sharon Schulman, CEO of External Affairs and Institutional Research.

The legislator learned about the Carnegie Center and Dante Hall, sites owned by Stockton College in Atlantic City, during a meeting with Alex Marino, Assistant to the Provost for Atlantic City Instructional Sites.

He also lunched with members of the college Student Senate. Rumpf later remarked that he was impressed with the students' level of engagement in discussions.

Assemblyman Brian Rumpf visited Stockton again on Nov. 14, 2013 as Legislator-in-Residence. Activities included a briefing from the Coastal Research Center, visiting Civic Engagement Living Learning Community class, and lunch with President Saatkamp.

Assemblyman Rumpf began his first term in the Assembly on June 23, 2003. Before then, he served as a Little Egg Harbor Township committeeman and mayor.

The assemblyman is interested in issues related to recovery from Superstorm Sandy as well as to the Barnegat Bay, waterways and the fishing industry. He has sponsored legislation to advance the interests of senior citizens and military veterans.

"It was truly a privilege to be named as Stockton's Legislator-In-Residence," Assemblyman Rumpf said. "The program's goals are consistent with Stockton's tremendous reputation

for enhancing students' interaction with government and other entities to enhance students' overall educational experience."

The assemblyman earned his BA degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and a Juris Doctor from Washington and Lee University School of Law in 1989.

POLLING NEWS

The Stockton Polling Institute completed a successful season of fall election polls, providing accurate measurements of voter sentiment in two statewide New Jersey elections as well as in legislative districts.

A Polling Institute poll of 800 likely New Jersey voters found a spread of 11 percentage points in the U.S. Senate race with Democrat Cory Booker leading Republican Steve Lonegan one week before the Oct. 16 special election. Booker beat Lonegan in the election by 11 points.

An institute poll also found Republican Gov. Chris Christie leading Democrat Barbara Buono by 24 percentage points in the week leading up to the Nov. 5 general election. Christie won by a spread of 22 points.

In both elections, the Stockton Polling Institute showed vote percentage spreads closest to the actual election totals among polls in New Jersey.

The performance was among the high points in a season in which the number of mentions of the Hughes Center and the polling institute in the news media and online skyrocketed.

In fall 2012, the Hughes Center was cited in the media 140 times. During the same period in 2013, the Hughes Center/Polling Institute was cited 486 times, an increase of nearly 250 percent.

Both *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* featured the polling institute in stories during the week before the general election. Websites that cited Stockton Polling Institute results included *Politico*, *RealClear Politics*, *NJSpotlight*, *dailykos*, *The Huffington Post*, and the *Washington Post*.

In all, the Polling Institute conducted eight election polls, including three statewide polls and five legislative district polls. It was the highest number of election polls ever done in a season by the Hughes Center. The field work included completing 5,400 interviews.

For the first time, the Polling Institute took on two Stockton College graduate assistants in the fall to help with polling data analysis and reporting.

As the spring 2014 semester begins, the Stockton Polling Institute employs a staff of about 100 survey interviewers and monitors, with Stockton College students making up at least 80 percent of the staff.

NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stockton College President Herman Saatkamp has appointed five prominent community and business leaders to the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy's Steering Committee.

Mark Blum, of Galloway, was named the new publisher of *The Press of Atlantic City* in August. He has served in several media companies including Knight Ridder, Gannett and BH Media, and was *The Press'* controller from 1989 to 1993. *The Press* partnered with the Hughes Center to host Fall election debates.

Ron W. Johnson, a 1982 Stockton graduate, has worked at Shore Medical Center for nearly two decades and has served as president and chief executive officer for the past three years. Previously, Johnson had been the principal consultant with CSC Consulting & Systems Integration in Philadelphia.

The Hon. Frank W. Minor has served as mayor of Logan Township, NJ, since 2003. He created the Logan Township Economic Development Committee, which has helped to attract more than 60 new companies to the township.

David P. Tilton, president and CEO of AtlantiCare and a Galloway resident, leads more than 4,460 employees and more than 550 physicians at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC), the AtlantiCare Foundation, AtlantiCare Health Services, AtlantiCare Health Plans and AtlantiCare Behavioral Health (ABH). He has been instrumental in transforming ARMC from a community hospital to its becoming part of the regional health system AtlantiCare.

William Varley serves in the dual role as president of New Jersey American Water and New York American Water. He is the principal external contact for American Water in New Jersey.

"These five leaders represent some of the best of South Jersey. We welcome their expertise and perspectives on the work of the Hughes Center," said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center.



Hughes Center Director was interviewed by NBC 10 News Philadelphia reporter Ted Greenberg on January 9, 2014 on the Bridgegate scandal.

HUGHES CENTER SCHOLARSHIP



Alyson Stevens, a Psychology major who is working as a public policy associate at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in Washington, D.C., has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Stevens, a senior from Jackson in Ocean County, has been evaluating federal and state policy, legislation, and regulation to help the foundation formulate new strategies to prevent suicide and to use new media to broaden the base of grassroots advocates for suicide prevention.

The Stockton College's Washington, D.C. Internship program is an intensive para-professional and academic experience in which Stockton students live, work, and study in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Stockton is affiliated with the nation's largest internship organization, The Washington Center (TWC) for Internships and Academic Seminars.

The Hughes Center scholarship helps defray the cost of living in the nation's capital, making it possible for students to participate in internships.

Stevens, a student in the college's School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, is minoring in Gerontology and Holistic Health.

"My entire D.C. experience has opened my mind to new ideas and future career paths," Stevens said. She said that without the Hughes Center scholarship, "producing the funds to make this internship happen would have been extremely difficult."

For more information on the Hughes Center's Washington internship program, visit: <http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=135&pageID=65>

FEEDBACK SURVEY

**PLEASE TAKE A SURVEY
TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK
OF THE HUGHES CENTER
NEWSLETTER.**

[CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY](#)

STEERING COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHTS

JENNIFER YOUNG



Steering Committee member Jennifer Young is Director of External Affairs for Verizon New Jersey. She develops relationships with and interacts with municipal and county government leaders in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties.

Ms. Young began working at Bell Atlantic-New Jersey in the Small Business Sales Group in Newark. In 1990, she was promoted to Bell Atlantic-Pennsylvania for a challenging assignment in Outside Plant Operations. During the following decade, she led projects and teams in Operations, Project Management, Installation and Maintenance, Construction, Dispatch, and Workforce Development.

She returned to New Jersey as Verizon New Jersey's Southern External Affairs Field Director in February 2004. She works with community and business organizations across the southern New Jersey region as well as statewide on behalf of Verizon.

Among positions held by Ms. Young, she is a board member of the Southern New Jersey Development Council, the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, the Camden County Workforce Investment Board, the Cooper's Ferry Partnership Corp. board, the LEAP Academy Charter School Board of Trustees, the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Atlantic City Chamber.

She is also a member of the Woodland Community Development Corp. Employer Advisory Board, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the NAACP, and the Consortium of Information and Telecommunication Executives.

Ms. Young graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in finance from Hampton University. She is a 2006 graduate of the Leadership New Jersey program that teaches leadership skills to public and private-sector officials.

WILLIAM M. VARLEY

Steering Committee member William M. Varley serves as president of both New Jersey American Water and New York American Water. As principal external contact for American Water in New Jersey, where the company serves 2.5 million people, he strengthens relationships with customers, regulators and local government officials. Mr. Varley is responsible for operational and financial results in New Jersey and New York, where 370,000 people are served.

He also serves as senior vice president of the company's Northeast division. Mr. Varley previously served as vice

president and manager of Long Island American Water, as well as vice president of Business Development for New Jersey and New York.

Prior to joining American Water in 2000, Mr. Varley was the district manager for Layne Christensen Co., a large water supply contracting company. In his 13 years there, he oversaw Layne's Long Island well-drilling operations. He also worked for large engineering firms Camp Dresser & McKee and Hazen & Sawyer as resident and design engineer for large wastewater treatment plant upgrades.

Mr. Varley is the past Chairman of the New York Chapter of the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), and is a member of the New York Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). He has given technical presentations to many industry organizations, including the Long Island Water Conference, New York Section AWWA, New Jersey Section AWWA, Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC), National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the American Ground Water Trust, and the Edwin C. Tift Jr. Water Supply Symposium in New York.

The water company executive holds a bachelors of science in civil engineering technology from Rochester Institute of Technology.



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Dr. David L. Carr

Ben Peoples, Student Representative

Jessica Carey, Student Senate Public Policy Committee Chair

Sharon Schulman, CEO, External Affairs and

Institutional Research

Daniel J. Douglas, Director

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STAY IN TOUCH!

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