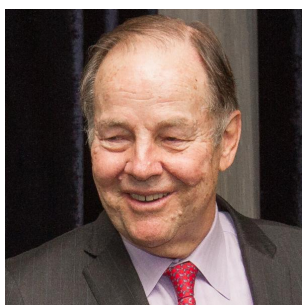




## Newsletter - September 2015



### Hughes Center Honors

Recap of Hughes Center Honors Awards Ceremony Recognizing Five NJ Leaders.



### Faculty Research: Constitutional Knowledge

Professors Linda Wharton and James Avery test public knowledge of the Supreme Court and U.S. Constitution.



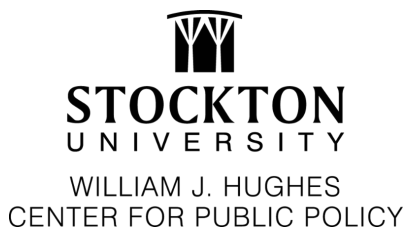
### Economics research

Research by Kelly Sloane reveals economic disparities between Northern and Southern New Jersey.



### Civic Education

Conference and polling advance civic education.



### National Advisory Board

Hughes Center forms national board of experts in public policy, civic engagement.



### Affordable Care Act

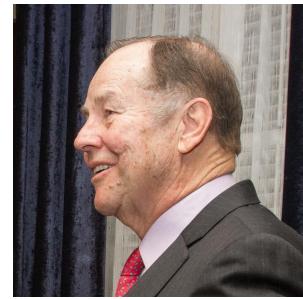
Ruth Katz of the Aspen Institute gives presentation on health care reform act.

**Tell us what you think**

Take a brief survey about the Hughes Center newsletter. Click here: [Survey link](#)

## Hughes Center Honors Ceremony Saluted Five Outstanding New Jersey Leaders on Feb. 6

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy honored former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean and four other New Jersey leaders at the Hughes Center Honors hosted at Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club. The Honors are awarded for professional excellence and a commitment to public service, civility and bipartisanship which reflects the life and career of Ambassador William J. Hughes.



The Hughes Center Honors awards and honorees included:

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Gov. Thomas Kean served as governor of New Jersey from 1982 to 1990. After leaving office, he served as the president of Drew University from 1990 to 2005. In December 2002, he was named chair of the National Commission on Terrorism Attacks Upon the United States. "It's an honor to get an award with Bill Hughes' name on it," said Governor Kean. "He is and was the best."

**Civility in Government and Politics Award:** John E. Wallace, Jr. is a retired New Jersey Supreme Court Justice, and is Counsel to the firm of Brown and Connery. Appointed to the state Superior Court in 1984, he moved to the Appellate Division in 1992 and to the state Supreme Court in 2003.

**Distinguished Alumni Award:** Christopher J. Connors is a New Jersey State Senator from District 9, which includes Galloway Township. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Stockton College, where, he said, "My professional life was born." Senator Connors practices law with Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky, Cherkos & Connors.

**Excellence in Civic Engagement Award:** Edward J. Graham was chairman and chief executive officer of South Jersey Industries. He is a member of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and served as a member of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

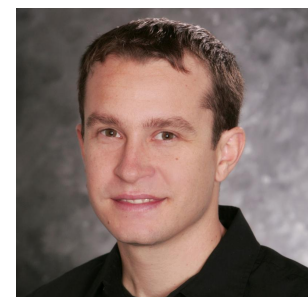
**Distinctive Student Leadership Award:** Carl Archut, of Paulsboro, NJ, is a junior pursuing a degree in Liberal Studies with concentrations in Leadership and Hospitality Management. He hopes to pursue a Master's degree in higher education administration upon graduating in May 2016.

[Back to Top](#)

## Faculty Research Tests Knowledge of Court, Constitution



Many adults in New Jersey do not know basic facts about the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Constitution, according to research by two Stockton University professors. The research by political science professors Linda Wharton and James Avery was sponsored and published by the Hughes Center.



In a statewide poll of New Jersey adults, more than half (54 percent) could not name a single Supreme Court justice, and 62 percent did not know that nine justices serve on the Court. Only 26 percent were able to identify John Roberts as chief justice of the United States, although 46 percent correctly picked him out from a list of names read to them.

Sixty percent incorrectly believed the Constitution explicitly protects against discrimination based on sex, although the Equal Rights Amendment was never approved in enough states to amend the Constitution. While majorities of respondents did not know these facts, at least 75 percent correctly identified the ways in which Supreme Court justices are appointed and the U.S. Constitution is amended, demonstrating knowledge of how the processes work. Those who were taught civic education in school fared better than those who did not.

The professors' report, *Understanding the United States Constitution and the Supreme Court: A Survey of New Jerseyans*, is found at [stockton.edu/hughescenter](http://stockton.edu/hughescenter). The findings were based on a survey of 806 New Jersey adults conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute Sept. 16-23, 2014. Live interviewers on the Stockton campus called landline and cell phones.

[Back to Top](#)

## Research Reveals North-South Economic Disparities in New Jersey

Six of the eight southern New Jersey counties rate the lowest of the state's 21 counties in several key economic and quality of life indicators, according to a report released by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

The report found that these southern counties "experience some of the highest rates of poverty and unemployment, have the lowest median incomes and achieve some of the lowest educational attainment and health rankings among the 21 counties in the state." The report, "Economic Indicators and Quality of Life in Southern New Jersey," was prepared by Kelly E. Sloane, public policy researcher for the Hughes Center. Although New Jersey has one of the nation's highest statewide median household incomes, Sloane's research points to dramatic disparities among the counties, particularly between the northern and southern counties.



"Public policymakers across the state should be highly concerned by the excessive geographic disparities in these key economic indicators," said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center. "Since the economic indicators are so closely linked, the challenge for policy makers is to craft solutions that will start to reduce the geographic disparities that put some New Jerseyans at a disadvantage compared to others."

For example, three counties (Cumberland, Atlantic and Essex) have half of the median household income of the top county (Hunterdon). Cumberland County's median household income is \$48,694 compared to Hunterdon County, with a median household income of \$105,950.

This geographic pattern of inequality continues with educational attainment measures, with the six southern counties at the bottom of the rankings.

The report can be downloaded at [stockton.edu/hughescenter](http://stockton.edu/hughescenter). It contains links to interactive maps and data.

[Back to Top](#)

## Conference and research advance civic education

The Hughes Center advanced civic education in recent months by cosponsoring a conference for social studies teachers and publishing a poll that linked education with civic participation.



Nearly 100 educators attended the inaugural "Conference for Middle and High School Social Studies Teachers," cosponsored by the Southern Regional Institute & Education Technology Training Center (SRI&ETTC) on April 16. The conference addressed professional development needs of social studies teachers, said Patricia Weeks, director of the SRI&ETTC.

The conference theme, "Fulfilling Our Civic Mission," reflected the notion that democracy's future depends on informed, engaged and responsible students. Ambassador William J. Hughes emphasized the importance of knowledge and participation in the political process in a keynote address.

"Democracy is not a spectator sport," Ambassador Hughes said. "It's become one, unfortunately, because 'politics' has become a dirty word." Citing his experience with bipartisanship while he was in Congress, he called for compromise, understanding, civility and tolerance in politics.

The Hughes Center released a Stockton Poll that found that New Jersey adults who studied U.S. government or civics in school were more likely to vote in recent elections and to participate in civic activities.

Fifty-five percent said they had taken at least one class in civics or U.S. democracy in school, while 44 percent had not. Ninety-seven percent of those who took a class said they follow government and politics some or most of the time, compared to 85 percent who had not taken a class.

Higher percentages of people who studied civics reported voting in the 2012 presidential election and in the 2014 congressional elections. Those who studied civics were also more likely to have contributed to a political candidate or campaign in the past year, to have written a letter to a newspaper or public official, and to have signed a petition advocating policy change.

"It makes sense that people who are informed about how their government works are more likely to take part in civic activities, including voting," said Hughes Center Director Daniel J. Douglas.

The poll was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute with 876 New Jersey adults. Live interviewers on the Stockton University campus called both landlines and cell phones.

[Back to Top](#)

## Hughes Center Forms National Advisory Board of Experts To Provide Guidance In Public Policy and Civic Engagement

The William J. Hughes Center of Public Policy at Stockton University on March 13 announced the

formation of a National Advisory Board to provide advice and guidance from a national perspective.

The board held its first teleconference on Monday, April 6. Members of the board include (in alphabetical order):

- Luke Bierman - dean and professor of Law, Elon University School of Law
- Bill Bradley - managing director, Allen & Company, and former U.S. senator from New Jersey
- Brendan T. Byrne - senior partner at Carella, Byrne, Bain, Gilfillan, Cecchi, Stewart & Olstein, and former New Jersey governor
- Robert J. Del Tufo - retired partner, New York City firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, and former New Jersey attorney general
- Mickey Edwards - director, Aspen Institute's Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership, and former member of Congress
- Kristen Grimm - founder and president, Spitfire Strategies
- Ruth J. Katz - director, Health, Medicine and Society Program at the Aspen Institute
- Virginia A. Long - counsel, Fox Rothschild, LLP, and retired New Jersey Supreme Court associate justice
- Bill Richardson - founder of The Richardson Center for Global Engagement, and former congressman, U.N. Ambassador, Energy Secretary and New Mexico governor
- Lindsay Thomas - senior vice president, Governmental Relations, AGL Resources, and former member of Congress
- John E. Wallace, Jr. - counsel, Brown & Connery, LLP, and retired New Jersey Supreme Court associate justice
- Christine Todd Whitman - president, The Whitman Strategy Group, and former New Jersey governor

"Our roots are always in South Jersey, even as we receive more regional and national attention for our work," said Ambassador William J. Hughes, the namesake of the Hughes Center.

"The National Advisory Board will help broaden the perspective of the center by bringing more points of view and experience to the table," Hughes said.

[Back to Top](#)

### **Ruth Katz Tells the Inside Story Of the Affordable Care Act**

On April 6, the Hughes Center hosted Ruth J. Katz, director of the Health, Medicine and Society Program at The Aspen Institute, for a presentation on "The Making of the Affordable Care Act: An Insider's Account of Healthcare Policymaking." Katz shared her insights with the Stockton community in the Campus Center Theater.

Her presentation outlined the political and bureaucratic efforts that went into passage of the Affordable Care Act, and how subsequent rulings by the Supreme Court potentially affected several million people. Katz also rebutted myths about the Affordable Care Act, saying, for instance, that it has led to job creation, not job losses. She said despite problems with its initial implementation, including website glitches, the act will prove to be popular and effective in the

long run.




"Ruth Katz is a superb public servant," said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center, highlighting her extensive career in public service both on and off Capitol Hill.


The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C. Katz, a Ventnor native, previously served as Chief Public Health Counsel with the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the U.S. House of Representatives. The committee has legislative jurisdiction over domestic health programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration, and national health care reform efforts.

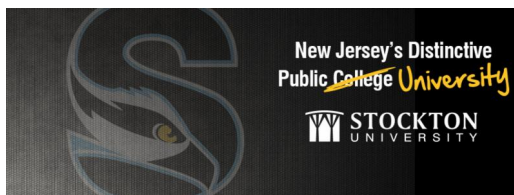
She was also the lead Democratic committee staff member on the public health components of the health reform initiative passed by the House in November 2009.



[Back to Top](#)

Like us on **Facebook**  View our videos on **YouTube**  Follow us on **twitter** 

 View on **Instagram**



[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to hughescenter@stockton.edu by [hughescenter@stockton.edu](mailto:hughescenter@stockton.edu) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University | 101 Vera King Farris Drive | Galloway | NJ | 08205