

Stockton University to Hold Commencement Ceremonies on May 7 and May 9

David Tilton of AtlantiCare to Speak to Doctoral and Master's Graduates;
Dr. Arnold Rampersad to Speak at Baccalaureate Ceremonies

For Immediate Release; with photos; click for [graduate list](#)

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Galloway Township, NJ - A nationally known educator, author and editor, and a nationally recognized health care executive are the commencement speakers at Stockton University's three graduation ceremonies set for **Thursday, May 7** and **Saturday, May 9**.

David Tilton, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of AtlantiCare, will give the address at the Master's and Doctoral commencement at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday in the Sports Center on the main Galloway campus.

Among the highlights of Tilton's career was AtlantiCare earning the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in 2009. Only a handful of organizations are selected by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce each year for the highest national presidential award for quality and performance excellence. As a Baldrige Award recipient, AtlantiCare is a role model for organizational management and continuous quality improvement, and Tilton serves as a national mentor of health care leaders.

Under Tilton's leadership AtlantiCare was included in Modern Healthcare's 2010 "Best Places to Work in Healthcare." Among many civic and industry honors he has received, the Greater Atlantic City Chamber recently named Tilton as its 2014 Business Leader of the Year. Tilton will be awarded Stockton's Distinguished Service Award at Thursday's ceremony.

Dr. Arnold Rampersad, noted author and editor and the Sara Hart Kimball Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at Stanford University, is the keynote speaker at both the 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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Baccalaureate ceremonies on Saturday. Dr. Rampersad's most recent publication, "The Collected Letters of Langton Hughes," has won much praise in reviews in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and other publications. Dr. Rampersad co-edited the book with Dr. David Roessel, professor of Greek Language and Literature at Stockton and Christa Fratantoro, a Stockton Literature graduate.

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in biography and for the National Book Award in non-fiction prose, Dr. Rampersad has won fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the J.S. Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Stockton's Acting President, will preside over all three commencements in the Sports Center on the university's main Galloway campus. A total of about 1,400 graduates are set to receive degrees this month.

Student speakers include Joseph M. Johnson, who will speak at the Doctoral and Master's ceremony, where he will receive his M.S. in Computational Science. Johnson, who has served as a Residential Assistant at Stockton, is currently working on a model to predict retention in housing for the benefit of the Stockton community.

This year marks Stockton's fourth Spring Doctoral and Master's Commencement ceremony. The growing graduate program awarded its first degrees in 1999 with a Master's in Business Studies, and the first doctoral program, in Physical Therapy, was approved in 2006. Stockton is currently recruiting students for its 13 graduate programs.

Lauren Duffy, a speech pathology and audiology major, will address the graduates of the Schools of Arts and Humanities, Business, Education, General Studies and Health Sciences during the morning Baccalaureate ceremony on Saturday. Heidi Shelly, the mother of four and a biochemistry and molecular biology major, will address the graduates of the Schools of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Social and Behavioral Sciences during the afternoon ceremony.

Stockton has joined a growing trend in moving away from identifying valedictorians and salutatorians for commencement ceremonies. The student speakers were selected through an application process initiated by the Provost's Office and supported by the Faculty Senate.

Three members of the Stockton community also will receive Distinguished Service Awards:

- Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Acting President, "for his outstanding leadership, extraordinary record of commitment, engagement, and service over the last 35 years, and his other many significant contributions to Stockton University, the community, and the State of New Jersey."
- Muhammad Ayub, "for his outstanding leadership and service on behalf of The City of Atlantic City, as a founding member of the Islamic Academy of South Jersey, his

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- instrumental role since 2011 as a member of Stockton's 2020 Strategic Planning - Global Perspectives Committee, and his other significant contributions to Stockton University, the community, and State of New Jersey.”

- Ralph E. Hunter, for his “outstanding vision and leadership as the founder and president of The African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, his commitment to preserving and educating those on the history and contributions of African Americans in Atlantic City and Southern New Jersey, and his other significant contributions to Stockton University, the community, and State of New Jersey.”

Emeritus status will be awarded to retiring faculty, by nomination of their program's faculty in recognition of their teaching, scholarship and many contributions to the Stockton community:

- Linda Aaronson, Associate Professor of Nursing ;
- Alan Arcuri, Professor of Political Science;
- Rogers Barlatt, Professor of Chemistry;
- Jack Connor, Professor of Writing;
- Alfonso Corpus, Associate Professor of Art;
- William Daly, Distinguished Professor of Political Science;
- Nancy Davis, Professor of Pathology;
- Penelope Dugan, Professor of Writing;
- Richard Hager, Associate Professor of Marine Science;
- Elaine Ingulli, Professor of Business Studies, Law;
- Lucinda Jassel, Professor of Political Science;
- William Jaynes, Professor of Social Work and African American Studies;
- Elinor Lerner, Associate Professor of Sociology;
- David Lester, Distinguished Professor of Psychology;
- Saralyn Mathis, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Information Systems;
- Lance Olsen, Professor of Music;
- Whiton Paine, Associate Professor of Business Studies, Marketing;
- Ralph Werner, Associate Professor of Biology.
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