Stockton to Offer Organizational Leadership Doctorate to Meet Growing Demand

Interdisciplinary Program Would Begin in January 2016

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Galloway Township, NJ - Stockton University will offer a new doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership beginning in January 2016, designed to meet the growing need for advanced degrees in management positions in the region and state.

"Stockton University's mission has always been to leverage the region's social and economic development through education and community partnerships," said Acting President Harvey Kesselman. "This new doctorate will provide strategic knowledge, enabling leaders to grow their educational institutions, businesses and non-profit organizations, ultimately improving our society and bettering the economy."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for executive leadership and managerial positions is expected to outpace the average demand for all jobs through 2022, due to projected growth and the need for replacements in that area. Jobs for social and community service managers are projected to grow by 20.8 percent, postsecondary education administrators by 14.5 percent and fundraising managers by 12.9 percent.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education has approved Stockton's new doctoral degree, adding to the University's growing graduate programs. The approval was announced today at Stockton's Board of Trustees meeting. Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks also approved the new organizational leadership program, which will bring Stockton's total number of graduate programs to 14.

While this is primarily a face-to-face program, meeting every other weekend, online course opportunities will be integrated into the program's design.

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The program is described as being uniquely "practitioner-based," meaning that students would utilize their workplace or organizational settings as "labs" in exploring successful leadership behaviors, using an interdisciplinary approach.

The program plans call for an initial student group of between 15 and 25 part-time students, with a subsequent goal of admitting at least 20 new students per year.

"Leaders from every sector of the southern New Jersey region will benefit from this interdisciplinary applied degree in Organizational Leadership," said Dean Claudine Keenan of the School of Education. "From small non-profits to large corporations, county and municipal agencies, education, health care and faith-based organizations, participants in this program will study a cutting-edge doctoral curriculum to be offered in an executive style, face-to-face and online format."

The need for this program in southern New Jersey was substantiated by a series of surveys and focus groups. Interviews were also held with 31 local leaders in health care, social services, education, for-profit and non-profit businesses and faith-based organizations.

A survey of all Stockton graduate school alumni and a sample of current master's students found strong interest in the program, as did a survey that included educators with master's degrees in the region, and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce.

The program will cover a wide variety of subjects, including: leading with ethical behavior and integrity, thinking and planning strategically and systematically; coaching, mentoring and developing new leaders, establishing and communicating a vision, building confidence, initiative and accountability, and understanding diverse cultures and how to span them.

The program requires a master's degree for entry (in addition to other requirements) and the completion of 54 credits in two phases, including a dissertation in practice (or action research) component.

Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club and other University facilities will be used to house the program.

For more information, visit Stockton.edu/edd.

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