

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Dr. Molefi Asante to Present Keynote Talk at 8th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium at Stockton College

Event Slated for October 4, 2011 in the Performing Arts Center

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- Dr. Molefi Asante, Professor of African American Studies, Temple University, will be the keynote speaker when Stockton College's Africana Studies Program and the Unified Black Student Society present the 8th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium.

The event, set for **2:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 4, 2011**, in the **Performing Arts Center (PAC)**, is free and open to the public.

The symposium is named in honor of the late Fannie Lou Hamer, a civil rights pioneer whose impassioned plea for equal voting rights helped bring national attention to the issue at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, held in Atlantic City.

"Fannie Lou Hamer's lasting contribution to the civil rights movement experienced its seminal moment at Convention Hall, now known as Boardwalk Hall, just a few steps away from the Mayflower Hotel, where Stockton's first semester of teaching took place just seven years following the 1964 Convention," President Herman J. Saatkamp said. "It is fitting this Symposium has grown and flourished through the leadership of Stockton's Africana Studies Program."

This year's event is themed "Important Lessons from Our Past: The Far-Reaching Effects of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement." In addition to the keynote talk by Dr. Asante, the founder of Afrocentricity International, guest panelists include Dr. Robert Gregg, Dean of Stockton's School of Arts and Humanities; Dr. Linda Williamson Nelson, Professor of Anthropology and

Africana Studies; and Dr. William Sales, Associate Professor of Political Science and Africana Studies, Seton Hall University.

The panel will be moderated by Dr. Patricia Reid Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Africana Studies.

Stockton's student-led "Highest Praise" gospel choir will open the program with a spirited rendition of Freedom Songs from the civil rights era.

The event is co-sponsored by Stockton's Office of the Provost, School of General Studies, Office of Student Development, Student Senate, Diversity Living Learning Community/Residential Life, Civic Engagement Project, the Social Work Program and the Social Work Club. .

Dr. Asante holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has published more than 70 books and is the author of *The Afrocentric Idea; An Afrocentric Manifesto; and Afrocentricity*. A longtime and outspoken activist for human rights, local African independence and constructive engagement with all oppressed people, he is viewed as one of the most prolific scholars in America.

Dr. Molefi Asante's nonprofit group, Afrocentricity International, which was founded in 2010, seeks to increase knowledge on all African issues of interest and to improve communication among individuals, groups, organizations and nations within the African Diaspora.

For more information on the Fannie Lou Hamer Symposium, contact Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt at Pat.Reid-Merritt@Stockton.edu or 609-652-4609.

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