THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

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Richard Stockton College of NJ Takes Careful Measure of its Contribution to Climate Change

College to Inventory Practices in Order to Prevent Contributing to the Advance of Global Warming

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

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Galloway Twp., NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has begun an extensive college-wide inventory of its impact on the world climate.

The College has long been a leader in green technology and initiatives. Stockton is committed to moving toward a "carbon neutral" campus, according to Dr. Patrick Hossay, Associate Professor of Political Science.

"This is part of our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship," Hossay said. "The release of greenhouse gasses, most commonly carbon dioxide, is recognized as the leading contributor to climate change. Achieving 'carbon neutrality' would mean shifting energy use, transportation and operations toward practices that would make no net contribution. This inventory is a very important first step."

Faculty and student research teams will be carefully measuring and analyzing the amount and source of energy used by the college over the next year. Using everything from cutting-edge equipment and sophisticated computer analysis, to simple surveys of faculty and students, these teams will be measuring every aspect of college life. Of course, the heating, cooling, and lighting of academic buildings and student housing will be carefully examined.

"The process will not end there," Hossay said. "The daily commute of students, faculty and staff will be considered as well. In fact, the environmental impact of the food served on campus, landscaping, building maintenance and all campus purchases, from paintbrushes to copy paper will be calculated."

Hossay, the lead researcher on the project, makes its scope clear: "This will be the most extensive inventory of a campus I've ever seen. From lawnmowers to the research trips of our faculty, we'll be measuring it all." Jennifer McGinn, a lead student researcher on the project, expressed her clear enthusiasm, "It's exciting to be a part of this project, and to know that the work we do will help Stockton set a model for environmental responsibility."

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Such innovative environmental initiatives are nothing new to Stockton. The college's previous efforts at reducing its environmental impact have included solar panels on its academic buildings, a new expansion of its academic facilities certified by the US Green Building Council as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) construction, and perhaps most notably, one of the largest geothermal systems in the world. A new aquifer thermal storage energy project (ATES), one of the first in the United States, began operation two weeks ago. This technology of the ATES system reduces the amount of energy used to cool Stockton's buildings by storing cold temperature water in underground aquifers in the winter and drawing it back out in the summer to help cool campus buildings.

Stockton's green commitment is evident in its courses as well. This is the first term that Stockton is offering an innovative curriculum in sustainability and environmental policy, and students have responded to these options with enthusiasm. As a collaboration between the political science and environmental science programs, this new curriculum brings courses in the natural sciences and social and political studies together to help prepare students for careers in environmental policy, environmental management, law, advocacy and education. This course of study is the first of its kind in New Jersey.

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