THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of Public Relations
Galloway Twp., NJ 08240

Stockton Groundbreakings Mark Largest Construction Effort in College History

Campus Center, Alton Auditorium, Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage Project to be Recognized; Holocaust Center Expansion to Follow

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, May 07, 2008

Contact: Tim Kelly
Stockton Public Relations
(609) 652-4950

Galloway Twp., NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will break ground Wednesday, May 7 on what will be a 150,000 gross-square-foot Campus Center, and renovation of the Elizabeth B. Alton Auditorium as well as cut a ribbon to recognize completion of its innovative Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage (ATES) system. The ATES system helps to heat and cool campus buildings in an environmentally sensitive way.

The ceremonies begin with the ATES ribbon-cutting at 5:30 p.m., in front of the West Quad building (adjacent to Parking Lot 1) followed by the groundbreaking for the Campus Center, the largest single building project in Stockton history. This ceremony will take place in the same general area as the ribbon-cutting. Attendees will then take a short walk to the Alton Auditorium ribbon-cutting, which will occur outside A-Wing and near the Arts and Science Building courtyard.

In concert with the planned expansion and renovation of the Holocaust Resource Center, improvements to existing campus buildings and new signage and beautification efforts, the groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings signify the most ambitious building programs in the 37-year history of the Galloway Twp. campus.

“This is a wonderful day for Stockton,” President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said. “We embark on a significant construction project that will help to transform our campus.”

The construction activities to take place throughout this year are anticipated to exceed $150 million in construction value. All of the projects represent significant steps toward advancement and implementation of the Facilities Master Plan covering a period beyond the next 10 years. The Master Plan available online at www.stockton.edu addresses the need for facilities upgrades to serve the needs of the state’s fastest growing region.

-more-

"The Campus Center building will serve as the epicenter for the redevelopment activity to take place on campus," said Donald E. Moore, Stockton's Executive Director, Facilities and Plant Operations. "When it is completed, it will be a centerpiece for the College."

Campus Center

The 150,000 gross square foot structure will be the largest single building project ever undertaken at Stockton. Its design concept is to be a focal point for the future Academic Quad. Designed for both formal and informal usage, the center will include a Grand Hall and serve as a main connector between the future Academic Quad and the existing campus facilities. It will be a gathering space designed for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Alton Auditorium

Formerly known as the A-Wing Lecture Hall, Alton Auditorium is an existing 4,800 square foot facility to be transformed into a state-of-the-art environment. The renovated Auditorium will contain tiered seating to increase capacity from its current seating capacity of 224 seats to 275 seats. There will also be a new main entry from the second floor. Outdated audio visual equipment will be upgraded to current technology and a new catwalk will span the auditorium to enhance stage lighting during performances. A new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system will be installed.

Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage

The Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage system is a progression of geothermal heat pump technology, of which Stockton is a world pioneer and leader. Cold is extracted from groundwater in summer to aid in air conditioning and heat is taken from the groundwater in winter to provide heat. The ATES project significantly reduces the College's energy use and emissions. It serves as a model for other large buildings and building complexes.

# # #