

**THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

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Pomona, NJ 08240

**Stockton's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy Hosts Its First Event: Panel Discussion on New Jersey's Role in 2008 Presidential Election**

**Local Think Tank Debuts in Partnership with the Hall Institute of Public Policy**

***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** – New Jersey's priorities for the 2008 Presidential campaign, including the impact of our state's change to an early primary election, will be addressed on Monday March 26, 2007 when the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy makes its official public debut at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy Center in conjunction with the Hall Institute of Public Policy will host a panel discussion on the presidential race and New Jersey's move to a February primary. The panel will be moderated by Michael P. Riccards, Executive Director of the Hall Institute. Panelists will include James Avery, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Stockton; Lucinda S. Jassel, Professor of Political Science and Interim Director of the Hughes Center; Keith Davis, Chairman of the Atlantic County Republican Party; and Ron Ruff, Chairman of the Atlantic County Democratic Party.

The event is scheduled to take place on **Monday March 26, from 2:10 to 3:25 p.m.** in the **Alton Auditorium** (formerly A-Wing Lecture Hall) on the Galloway Township campus.

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The discussion is one segment of a series of special programs announced by the Hall Institute. The Institute's programming includes a cable television feature on the election at Montclair State University, a Monmouth University voter poll and a "Presidential Blog" that is maintained by Riccards entitled "Riccards on New Jersey 2008." This blog can be found at <http://riccards2008.blogspot.com> . Additional segments include a focus group of New Jersey voters and a special Hall Institute Web page on the topic at [www.hallnj.org/nj2008](http://www.hallnj.org/nj2008).

"I can't think of a more fitting way to launch the William J. Hughes Center than by taking part in this series of events conducted by the Hall Institute," Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said. "One of the College's important missions is to engage our students and our community."

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy was officially opened in February of this year as a catalyst for research, analysis and the generation of innovative policy solutions to the social, economic and cultural issues facing Southern New Jersey. The Center will serve as a forum for discussion on policy issues designed to engage citizens and policy makers in strengthening the voice of Southern New Jersey in public debate. It was founded by William J. Hughes of Ocean City, whose distinguished career included service in the U.S. House of Representatives, working as Ambassador to Panama and teaching as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the College.

The College is currently conducting a search for a permanent Director. At this time, Professor of Political Science Lucinda Jassel serves as Interim Director. Martha McGinnis is Technical Assistant at the Center and Dean Cheryl Kaus of the Division of Social and Behavioral Science supervises the Center's operation. For more information on the Center, located in room C-144 on the main Galloway Township campus, contact Director Jassel at [Lucinda.Jassel@stockton.edu](mailto:Lucinda.Jassel@stockton.edu) or Technical Assistant Martha McGinnis at [Martha.McGinnis@stockton.edu](mailto:Martha.McGinnis@stockton.edu) .

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