

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Stockton to Present Seventh Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium

Event Set for Oct. 12

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will host its Seventh Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium on **Tuesday, October 12, 2010** at **2:30 p.m.** in the College's Performing Arts Center (PAC). Stockton's Africana Studies Program and the Unified Black Student Society are sponsoring the event.

The symposium is named in honor of Fannie Lou Hamer, whose impassioned plea for equal voting rights at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City helped to bring national attention to the issue. The event has grown immensely since its inception. The first Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium was organized in 2004 by the New Jersey Department of State.

During the 2005 symposium, Reverend Regena Thomas, New Jersey's Secretary of State at the time, led a walking pilgrimage from Cape May to Atlantic City to retrace a small portion of the Underground Railroad. This year, Rev. Thomas will serve as a panelist along with Mr. Chad Lassiter, President of the Black Men at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Policy and Practice.

The program, which is themed "Honoring Our Elders by Continuing Our Struggle: New Voices in the Civil Rights Movement," will focus on the historical contributions and contemporary issues that continue to shape America's fight for racial equality and social justice. The Highest Praise Choir will sing freedom songs, a short film will be shown and a dramatist will portray the life of Fannie Lou Hamer.

Allison Sinanan, assistant professor of social work, said, "Questions surrounding race and social equality often erupt into explosive discourse. We hope that this symposium will help to create a 'teaching moment' for members of the College community."

**-more-**

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The symposium is free and open to the public (must obtain a ticket at the PAC box office). For more information, please contact Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt, Africana Studies Program coordinator, at [Pat.Reid-Merritt@Stockton.edu](mailto:Pat.Reid-Merritt@Stockton.edu) or 609-652-4609.

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