

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## ***Boardwalk Empire* Actress, Mattilyn Rochester, to Reenact a Day in the Life of Fannie Lou Hamer**

Performance to Take Place at Stockton College on Oct. 12

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

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** Actress Mattilyn Rochester, who has appeared on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *The Loop* and *The District*, and who will appear on HBO's new hit television series, *Boardwalk Empire*, will make a guest appearance at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

As part of Stockton's Seventh Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium on **Tuesday, October 12, 2010**, Rochester will present a dramatic recreation of a day in the life of Fannie Lou Hamer. The symposium begins at **2:30 p.m.** and will be held in the College's Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Fannie Lou Hamer, one of twenty children born to sharecroppers in the Mississippi Delta, inspired countless African Americans with her courage. On August 31, 1962, Hamer, at the age of 44, along with 17 others took the bus to Indianola, Mississippi to register to vote. Only a few years later, as vice-chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Hamer represented her entire race at the 1964 Democratic National Convention held in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Hamer's legacy is remembered and shared with the Stockton community to keep the memory of her struggles for freedom and equality alive.

"This year's theme, 'Honoring Our Elders by Continuing Our Struggle: New Voices in the Civil Rights Movement,' continues our tradition of bringing informative educational programs to the College and the wider community which speak to the life and legacy of Mrs. Hamer," said Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt, professor of social work and Africana studies.

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In addition to Rochester's performance, a panel of scholars and social activists will discuss past contributors to the civil rights movement and examine new issues that shape the struggle for civil rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Panelists include Rev. Regena Thomas, former NJ secretary of state; Mr. Chad Lassister, president of Black Men at Penn; Rev. Dr. Frank Portee, III, Church of the Good Shepherd; Dr. Donnetrice Allison, associate professor of communications and Africana studies; and Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt, program coordinator and moderator.

For more information, please contact Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt at 609-652-4609.

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