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Speaker Oliver, Assemblyman Wolfe Named Stockton Legislators-in-Residence

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Galloway Township, NJ- New Jersey Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver and Assemblyman David W. Wolfe will serve as Legislators-in-Residence at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey during the 2012-13 academic year, Stockton President Herman Saatkamp announced today.

Speaker Oliver, an Essex County Democrat, will visit the Stockton campus and meet with students, faculty, and staff to share insights about state government on Oct. 16 and 17. Assemblyman Wolfe, an Ocean County Republican, will be scheduled to participate during the spring semester.

The Legislator-in-Residence program is sponsored by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. It brings New Jersey lawmakers to the Stockton campus to interact with faculty, students, and staff, and to encourage civic and political engagement.

"The College community is pleased to have legislators of such stature participate in our program," Dr. Saatkamp said.

"Speaker Oliver is a notable figure as well as a vibrant leader in New Jersey. Her involvement with Stockton provides a tremendous learning opportunity for our students and a valuable professional experience for our faculty and staff," the President said.

The program exposes Stockton students to real-world experience in public policy and issues of importance to New Jersey, said Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the Hughes Center.

Assemblywoman Oliver, who represents the 34th Legislative District, is the first African-American woman to lead a legislative house in New Jersey and only the second African-American woman in American history to lead a legislative house.

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She was first sworn in as New Jersey's 169th General Assembly Speaker in January 2010. She is serving her second two-year term as Speaker.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Lincoln University and a Master of Science degree in Planning and Administration from Columbia University. Speaker Oliver is an administrator with Essex County government and has extensive experience in nonprofit management. She has taught at several colleges and universities.

"I look forward to participating in this program and speaking with different student groups while on the Stockton campus," Speaker Oliver said.

Assemblyman Wolfe, a Senior Assistant to the President at Ocean County College, has a strong background in education. He serves on the Assembly Education Committee, which he has chaired, and on the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Public Schools. Assemblyman Wolfe is also a member of the Transportation Committee.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Westminster College and a Masters of Education and Guidance from the University of Delaware.

A former Brick Township Council leader, he was first elected to the state Assembly from the 10th Legislative District in 1991. Reflecting his representation of coastal Ocean County, Assemblyman Wolfe has worked closely with the State Beach Erosion Commission, including as a former Chairman. The commission has developed proposals for the protection of the shore and beaches. Assemblyman Wolfe was also a sponsor of a state Blue Acres project.

"My interests in the Legislature dovetail nicely with programs and interests at Stockton College," Assemblyman Wolfe said. "I hope my time there will be mutually beneficial."

Assembly Majority Leader Louis Greenwald, D-Camden, and Sen. Chris Connors, R-Ocean, were last year's Legislators-in-Residence at Stockton.

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