

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Distinguished Panel to Remember the Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Stockton's President Emerita Dr. Vera King Farris

Event Set for Jan. 17

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

Friday, January 08, 2010

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will commemorate the life and legacy of President Emerita Dr. Vera King Farris on **Sunday, January 17, 2010** in the Sports Center on the College's Galloway Township campus.

The program and reception will take place from 2-4 p.m. To accommodate the number of people expected to attend, the College is asking attendees to register in advance. This may be done online by visiting [www.stockton.edu](http://www.stockton.edu) and clicking on the Celebration of Life icon; or by calling Kathleen Cochrane in the Office of Development at 609-652-4658. A brief registration process in advance of the event will take place inside the Sports Center from 1-2 p.m.

A distinguished panel will pay tribute to Dr. Vera King Farris, Stockton's longest serving president, who sadly passed away on November 28, 2009. The featured panelists include the following:

- The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman, Assemblywoman, Legislative District 15: She served on Stockton's Board of Trustees from 1981-1998 and was the Board's chair from 1990-1991.
- Michael Jacobson, Esquire, Stockton College Trustee: Jacobson is the longest-serving Stockton Board of Trustees member (since 1985), serving as a past Chair of the Board of Trustees from 2001-2004 and 1994-1996. Mr. Jacobson currently serves as vice chair of the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee.
- Dr. George Pruitt, President of Thomas Edison State College: Dr. Pruitt served as President of Thomas Edison State College throughout Dr. Farris' 20 year Stockton presidency. He will represent the state colleges and universities at Dr. Farris' remembrance event.

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- Dr. Muriel A. Howard, President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- Dr. Marvalene Hughes, President of Dillard University: Dr. Marvalene Hughes attended Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University, with Dr. Farris.
- Dr. David L. Carr, Stockton's Provost and Executive Vice President: Dr. Carr will transition from Provost to the Senior Research Fellow for the College's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy in June of 2010.
- Dr. Franklin Smith, Professor of Sociology at Stockton
- Dr. Yitzhak Sharon, Professor of Physics and the Judge Gerald and Claire Weinstein Professor in Jewish Studies at Stockton
- Ms. Priscilla Comfort: A close friend and former Stockton Human Resources director.
- Mr. Eric Page, Stockton Alum

Stockton's President Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. will deliver the opening remarks, Mr. King Farris, Dr. Farris' son, will share memories, and Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Dean of Stockton's School of Education will close the remembrance event. Following Professor of Music Beverly Vaughn's musical performance of "I Believe I Can Fly," a video presentation will highlight Dr. Farris' many outstanding accomplishments. The event will conclude with a reception.

Dr. Farris, an Atlantic City native, was named Stockton's third president on May 25, 1983, and she became the first African American woman president of a New Jersey state college. From 1983 until her retirement in 2003, she successfully transformed a young, growing state college into a nationally-ranked higher education institution dedicated to delivering a first-rate, affordable, and accessible education to students.

Dr. Farris left behind a remarkable legacy. She will be remembered for her support of Stockton's Holocaust Resource Center and master's degree program, the expansion of campus facilities, and campus green initiatives. Dr. Farris was also an avid Osprey fan and a caring mentor willing to talk to students in need of help. Outside of Stockton, Dr. Farris served on the corporate board of directors of the Flagstar Corporation, parent company of Denny's restaurants.



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