



**STOCKTON** | STOCKTON CENTER FOR  
UNIVERSITY | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**FY 2015**

*Annual Report*

**July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015**

# *Table of Contents*

Executive Director's Message	2
SCCE Mission Statement	4
SCCE Vision Statement	4
Who We Are	5
Advisory Council Members	5
Affiliated Advisory Council Members	5
SCCE Budget and Planning	6
SCCE Faculty Fellows Program	7
Dr. Jennifer Barr	7
Dr. Joseph Rubenstein	8
Additional Staff and Faculty Engagement in the Community	9
SCCE Collaborations	9
An Excerpt of Staff and Faculty Engagement in the News	10
SCCE Student Fellows Program	12
Homework Completion Program at Stanley S. Holmes Village in Atlantic City	12
The Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City	15
Stockton's Food Drive	16
English Learner's Program at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church	16
Academic and Cultural Enrichment Program	17
Adopt-A-Town	18
School and Community Gardens	19
Diversity Training	19
Marketing for African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey	20
SCCE Advisory Council	21
Upcoming Projects at a Glance	21



## *Director's Message*



*I am delighted to present the Stockton Center for Community Engagement's (SCCE) Annual Report for the academic year 2014-2015. We continued to draw on community and institutional knowledge to facilitate connections between students, faculty, and community needs in mutually beneficial ways. We promoted and sustained SCCE's mission and supported the engagement goals of our institutional 2020 Strategic Plan. This report also highlights the communal efforts of Stockton students, faculty, and staff in upholding our Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Classification for community engagement.*

*It has been a pleasure to enhance Stockton students' commitment to civic responsibility by engaging them in various SCCE projects. Students have overwhelmingly responded to our call for volunteers and have made their mark in the process. SCCE launched numerous new projects including the Homework Completion Program at Stanley S. Holmes Village in Atlantic City, Stockton's Food Drive, an English Learner's Program, and the Pilot Adopt-A-Town initiative. Additionally, we launched a one-year Diversity and Professionalism training for the staff of the Atlantic County Department of Family and Community Development. Furthermore, we successfully maintained the Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City. SCCE is proud of the presence we have in Atlantic City and the surrounding area.*

*This year, we expanded external and internal requests for assistance in community engagement. Several faculty, staff, and community members contacted me to facilitate their community-related activities. Most of these requests led to memoranda of agreement between the SCCE and external partners such as Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Ministerio Por Gracia Sois Salvos, the Police Athletic League of Atlantic City (PAL), the Atlantic City Police Department, and the Atlantic City Housing Authority. Additionally, we facilitated communications between the Executive Director of the PAL and ARHU Dean Dr. Lisa Honaker to offer a two-week arts camp at the PAL this summer. We also facilitated the approval of two resolutions by the Atlantic City Board of Education for NAMS faculty and students to provide an Underwater Robotics Program in two Atlantic City schools, Dr. Martin Luther King and Atlantic City High School. You will read more about most of these connections in this report.*

*SCCE is grateful to the many students, faculty, and staff who contributed to our success during this academic year. I wish to thank our SCCE team members: Program Assistant Ronnie Carlini and Faculty Fellows Professors Jennifer Barr and Joseph Rubenstein. I also thank Student Fellows Jessica Ryan, Paul Campos, Melissa Zsitkovsky, Lidia Martinez, Askhia Khawaja, Jessica Webster, Sarah Lipuma, Maggie Bufford, Naomi, Madden, and Heather Brilla-Swenson. All fellows dedicated their time and commitment to the mission of SCCE in exceptional ways.*

*We express deep gratitude to Stockton's administration, especially Acting President Kesselman for his support of SCCE and our faculty and student fellow programs. We also acknowledge past President Saatkamp for funding the purchase of a minivan for the Center. We wish to thank Dr. Susan Davenport, Interim Provost; Dr. Carra Hood, Assistant Provost for Programs and Planning; and Ms. Theresa*

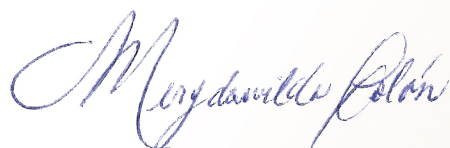
*Marinelli in the Provost Office for their support of SCCE initiatives. Additional thanks to Education Dean Dr. Claudine Keenan, with whom we worked closely in our Atlantic City Schools projects.*

*We appreciate the Office of Service Learning whose staff, including Daniel Tome, Diana Strelczyk, Erin O'Hanlon and Activist in Residence, Rona Whitehead, consistently cooperated with initiatives and projects of SCCE. We are also grateful for the assistance from staff members in SOBL, Events Services, Plant Management, General Counsel, External Affairs, Computer Services, the Print Shop, Risk Management, Chartwells, Kramer Hall and Manahawkin instructional sites, and the Carnegie Library Center.*

*We wish to recognize the following faculty members for their involvement and support of initiatives of the SCCE: Drs. Sonia Gonsalves, Marissa Levy, Elizabeth Shobe, Jessica Bonnan-White, Tara Luke, Betsy Erbaugh, Deb Figart, Aakash Taneja, and William Reynolds. We are also thankful for the contributions of staff members Dianne Stalling and Walter L. Tarver III. Furthermore, our Advisory Council members have provided insight and invaluable support for which I am grateful.*

*This year afforded us many opportunities to make an impact in our community and we all accepted the challenge and responsibility to make our mark. SCCE could not have done all we did without the serious commitment of all whose names and/or offices are mentioned above.*

*All the best,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Myranda Polón". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Myranda" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Polón".



## *Stockton Center for Community Engagement Mission Statement*

The mission of the Stockton Center for Community Engagement is to:

- promote the ideals of public service and social responsibility by fostering community-based experiential learning and civic engagement for students, faculty, and staff;
- facilitate training, research and educational enrichment through collaborative efforts with campus groups, as well as local, state, and regional community organizations and government agencies; and
- cultivate connections between scholarship and the public interest.

## *Stockton Center for Community Engagement Vision Statement*

The Stockton Center for Community Engagement promotes university and community efforts to serve the public good.

### **Reflection of FY 2015**

This year's accomplishments demonstrate the importance of the Center in carrying out Stockton University's mission to serve the community. Using community and institutional knowledge to create and/or enhance community efforts, SCCE facilitated connections between student and faculty expertise and the needs of community partners. You will read more about these connections in this report.



## Who We Are

SCCE's leadership includes Program Assistant Ronnie Carlini year round and two Faculty Fellows and 10 Student Fellows, one graduate and nine undergraduate, during fall and spring semesters 2014-2015. Brief descriptions of the fellows' activities ensue in this annual report.

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Dr. Merydawilda Colón <i>Executive Director</i>	Dr. Thomasa Gonzalez <i>Vice President of Student Affairs</i>
Peter Baratta <i>Executive Assistant to the Provost</i>	Dr. Lisa Honaker <i>Dean of ARHU</i>
Dr. Jennifer Barr <i>Professor of Business Studies</i>	Chelsea P. Tracy-Bronson <i>Assistant Professor of Special Education</i>
Dr. Tait Chirenje <i>Associate Professor of Environmental Studies</i>	Dr. Joseph Rubenstein <i>Professor of Anthropology</i>
John Emge <i>Executive Director, United Way of Atlantic County</i>	Daniel Fidalgo Tomé <i>Coordinator of Service-Learning</i>
Dr. Mary Lou Galantino <i>Professor of Physical Therapy</i>	Dr. Michael Rodriguez <i>Associate Professor of Political Science</i>
Dr. Sonia Gonsalves <i>Professor of Psychology</i>	Dr. Shanthi Rajaraman <i>Associate Professor of Chemistry</i>
Dr. Israel Posner <i>Executive Director, Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality &amp; Tourism</i>	Dr. Claudine Keenan <i>Dean, School of Education Tenured Professor of Instructional Technology</i>
Alexander Marino <i>Assistant to Provost for Atlantic City Instructional Sites</i>	Daniel Douglas <i>Director, William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy</i>
Dr. David Burdick <i>Professor of Psychology</i>	Joseph Molineaux <i>Director, Small Business Development Center</i>
Ariane Newman <i>Assistant Director, Continuing Studies</i>	Brian Jackson <i>Chief of Staff</i>
Dr. Eileen Conran-Folks <i>Director, Hammonton and Manahawkin Instructional Sites</i>	Dr. Pedro Santana <i>Dean of Students</i>
Robert McNeill <i>Director of Continuing Studies</i>	Lolita Treadwell <i>Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer</i>
Patricia Collins <i>Secretarial Assistant 2, NS</i>	

### **AFFILIATED MEMBERS**

Chris Filiciello <i>Chief of Staff, City of Atlantic City</i>	Cindy Herdman Ivins <i>President/CEO, Family Service Association</i>
--	---

Our **website** is monitored and updated often by Ronnie Carlini, who makes the changes independently or as requested by the director. Additionally, weekly meetings and daily conversations occur as needed with Ronnie Carlini, primarily to discuss budgeting, website updates and newsletter content. Our **newsletter** in the form of an email blast was published twice this year, as we find that semiannual publications are more effective. Ronnie Carlini formats the newsletters.







Our press releases are produced in collaboration with Stockton's Department of External Affairs. There were two press releases this year. In addition, the newly created Homework Completion Program at Stanley S. Holmes Village was featured on NBC 40 in September and in *The Press of Atlantic City* in October. The Homework Completion Program was also covered in *The Stockton Times*, as was the newly created Stockton Faculty and Staff Food Drive. Our Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City also received acknowledgement by *The Press of Atlantic City* and NBC 40 in September and *The Argo* in October. Additionally SCCE has a Facebook page, which has sixty-six followers.

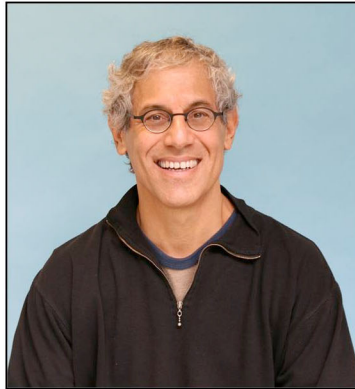
### *Budget and Planning*

The Faculty Fellows and Student Fellows programs continued this year. Two Faculty Fellows and ten Student Fellows contributed to the mission and vision of SCCE during AY 2014-2015. In addition, Presidential Initiatives' Funds were secured to purchase a 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan to transport students to SCCE projects and facilitate the commute to meetings in the community.



Since February 10, 2015, when the vehicle became available, daily transportation has occurred successfully to and from community projects, including the delivery of meals for The Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City. There were 88 trips in the spring semester, an increase of 55 trips from the fall semester. Certainly, the acquisition of the minivan facilitated students' engagement in the community. A SCCE Student Fellow drove the vehicle to deliver meals on Tuesdays and the Activist in Residence and student workers from the Office of Service Learning drove the vehicle to and from community projects other weekdays. Seventy-three students were transported in the van to The Campus Kitchen in Atlantic City and 129 students were transported to Stanley S. Holmes Village in Atlantic City. When the van was used for The Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City, the Office of Service Learning reserved additional vehicles to transport students to afterschool programs at Stanley S. Holmes Village and The Asbury Methodist Church in Atlantic City.

## SCCE Faculty Fellows Program



During FY 2014, two Faculty Fellows, Dr. Jennifer Barr and Dr. Joseph Rubenstein, contributed to SCCE's mission in fostering community-based experiential learning and civic engagement for students, faculty, and staff. These Faculty Fellows engaged in numerous activities throughout their term. They concluded their contracts in June 2015.

---

The following is a synopsis of Faculty Fellows' activities for AY 2014-2015.

**Dr. Jennifer Barr**, professor of Business Studies and Marketing,

- led a service-learning team from *Strategic Marketing* and developed a project for Tuckerton Seaport that included a detailed marketing plan as well as retail recommendations during the fall 2014 semester.
- led two service-learning teams from *Strategic Marketing* and developed Adopt-a-Town projects during the spring 2015 semester—one for Tuckerton Seaport and another for Atlantic City. The Tuckerton Seaport team developed a much more detailed marketing plan, including specific social media programs for promoting the venue. They also created a brochure. The Atlantic City team developed a supermarket feasibility study that encompassed an evaluation of wards, transportation infrastructure, demographics, tourism, safety statistics, and prospective target markets. The study was recommended by FEMA because Atlantic City is considered a food desert—at least 20% of families are at or below the federal poverty line and a third of the families are more than a mile away from a supermarket. Presently, residents rely heavily on bodegas.
  - All three projects were well received by community partners. It is noteworthy to mention that the teams from the spring 2015 semester interfaced with various constituencies including Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo, Councilman Frank Gilliam, Main Street Atlantic City, Atlantic City's Planning and Development Office, and FEMA.
- served as member of the SCCE Advisory Council.
- co-facilitated a brown bag workshop with Dr. Joseph Rubenstein entitled "SCCE Fellows: Reflecting on the First Two Years" on April 15, 2015.



**Dr. Joseph Rubenstein**, professor of Anthropology and Coordinator of the Sociology/Anthropology Program,

- developed SCCE's Student Community Gardens initiative and solidified our relationship with AtlantiCare Health Systems. Working with AtlantiCare and community activist Cookie Till, the Student Fellows worked on three gardens in Atlantic City and helped build and maintain a community garden at Hamilton Methodist Church in Atlantic City. Moreover, Zeenat Azad, a new gardener, will intern with Laura Engelmann, AtlantiCare Community Health and Wellness Manager.
- identified a local Atlantic City photographer and teacher, Ms. Glynnis Reed, who implemented photography classes for the children of Stanley S. Holmes Village under the direction of the SCCE Executive Director.
- worked with Dorrie Papdemetriou, Director of Exhibitions & Collections at the Noyes Museum of Art, and coordinated the installation of a mural at New York Avenue School to complement two others installed by the SCCE.
- served as member of the SCCE Advisory Council.
- co-facilitated a brown-bag workshop with Dr. Jennifer Barr entitled "SCCE Fellows: reflecting on the First Two Years" on April 15, 2015.

Beginning in fall 2015, Dr. Emari DiGiorgio, professor of Writing, and Dr. Amy Yingyi Situ-Liu, professor of Criminal Justice, will be our new SCCE Faculty Fellows.

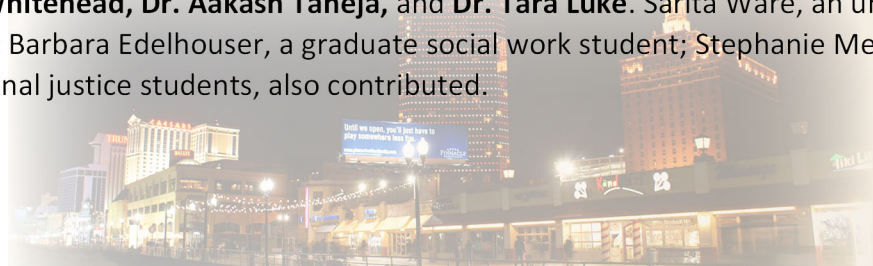


- **Dr. DeGiorgio** will expand the poetry-in-the-community projects that she currently facilitates through her *Why Poetry Matters* course and work to create a sustainable year-round poetry program at the Atlantic City Police Athletic League.
- **Dr. Situ-Liu** will expand the Empowerment Project she began with the local Chinese immigrant community to other communities. Dr. Situ-Liu's project is designed to inform the Chinese community about education, parenting, marriage, law and safety, cultural diversity, American heritage, citizenship, and positive and healthy lifestyles.

## *Additional Staff & Faculty Engagement in the Community*

### **SCCE Collaborations**

In November 2014, the SCCE signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Atlantic City Police Athletic League (PAL) to collaborate in educational programs of the PAL. This MOA stemmed from the request of Dr. Juanita High of the Golden Circle of South Jersey, Inc. to have the SCCE and Stockton students, faculty, and staff members assist in Communications and Language Arts, Computers, Counseling, Mathematics, Money Management, and Nutrition classes held at the PAL. This was a youth outreach program held at the PAL by members of the Golden Circle until June 2015. The following staff and faculty members of the Stockton community participated in the program: **Dianne Stalling, Walter L. Tarver III, Rona Whitehead, Dr. Aakash Taneja, and Dr. Tara Luke**. Sarita Ware, an undergraduate social work student; Barbara Edelhouser, a graduate social work student; Stephanie Medvetz and Ka'yan Frazier, criminal justice students, also contributed.



In November 2014, **Dr. Deb Figart** collaborated with SCCE and the Office of Service-Learning to organize a Teach-In about Atlantic City. Faculty members and community experts gathered to discuss the broader impact of the casino closings on the local economy and community. SCCE invited Cindy Herdman-Ivins, President/CEO, Family Service Association and Perry Mays, President, Coalition for a Safe Community to contribute to the discussion.

During spring 2015, **Dr. Elizabeth Shobe** consulted the SCCE Executive Director in order to implement a *Neuroscience Education Advocacy Program*. The program's objective was to engage young students with neuroscience concepts through active learning. Before implementing the program at Alder Avenue Middle School, Dr. Shobe invited Vice Principal Josey to Stockton University to learn about her initiative. Activities included a painted mural to hang in the school, foam neuron model, beaded neuron keychain or earrings, neurology cases they solve, and functional brain puzzles. Dr. Shobe's program was well-received by Vice Principal Josey, who welcomed her and her neuroscience students to Alder Avenue Middle School. This initiative will continue into FY 2016 thanks to a grant from 2020 Engagement Initiatives Funds.

During spring 2015, **Drs. Elizabeth Erbaugh, Ellen Mutari and Kristin Jacobson** completed the 2015 Report on the Status of Women in Atlantic County. SCCE collaborated in this effort by providing a One-Time Fellowship Award to Jessica Brown, one of the students who assisted with the report. Students enrolled in Dr. Jacobson's fall 2014 *Perspectives on Women* course and students enrolled in both Dr. Erbaugh's fall 2014 and spring 2015 *Social Research Methods* courses also assisted with the project. The report covered topics such as basic demographics, political participation, employment and earnings, social and economic autonomy, reproductive health and rights, and overall health and well-being. In May 2015, the finalized report was presented to the Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women.



## An Excerpt of Staff & Faculty Community Engagement in the News

In October 2014, [The Stockton Times](#) spotlighted **Dr. Alysia Mastrangelo**, professor of Physical Therapy, **Dr. Mary Kientz**, professor of Occupational Therapy, and **Joan Perks**, professor of Nursing, all of whom received the Community Partners Award from the Family Resource Network for their Get Fit with Stockton initiative. According to *The Stockton Times*, Get Fit with Stockton is “a fitness, nutrition and education program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

In December 2014, [The Stockton Times](#) acknowledged **Robert Ross**, Assistant Director of Counseling and Health Services, and the rest of Stockton’s volunteer group for receiving the 2014 Volunteer Group of the Year Award from the Special Olympics New Jersey. According to *The Stockton Times*, Ross was “instrumental in developing the Unified Sports and Young Athletes programs,” which partnered with the Athletics Department and Occupational Therapy students to work with the Special Olympians.”

In January 2015, [The Press of Atlantic City](#) covered Stockton’s involvement in the SeaPerch program, “a national science project in which students design and build their own remote-controlled submarines for competitions.” In conjunction with the program, **Peter Straub**, professor of Biology, explained the workings of a robotic submarine to local children at the Atlantic City Aquarium. Stephen Foster, who supervises a robotics club for the Atlantic County 4-H, stated that the ultimate goal of the program is to “inspire kids to consider careers in science, math and technology.”

In April 2015, [The Press of Atlantic City](#) reported on a special track event featuring Haegan Endres, a Brigantine boy diagnosed with medullablastoma. Haegan joined the Ospreys track team through Team IMPACT, “a program that gives college sports programs the opportunity to interact with children who are dealing with life-threatening or chronic illnesses.” According to *The Press of Atlantic City*, Stockton’s track coach **Jayson Resch** invited Haegan to the track after Stockton women's soccer coach **Nick Juengert** introduced him to the program.

In April 2015, [The Press of Atlantic City](#) highlighted an ecological park initiative in Woodbine. Woodbine received a Cape May County open space grant of \$500,000 to develop the park. Under the oversight of **Ekaterina Sedia**, professor of Biology, two graduate students from Stockton University will design the park.

In April 2015, [The Press of Atlantic City](#) acknowledged **Ai Zhang**, professor of Communication Studies, and her *Advanced Public Relations* class for their collaboration with local agencies and nonprofit groups. According to *The Press of Atlantic City*, student teams collaborated with the local Community Food Bank, the Egg Harbor Township Police Athletic League, and David Caldarella, founder of David’s Dream and Believe Cancer Foundation, to develop or assist with fundraising or marketing events.

In May 2015, [The Press of Atlantic City](#) covered a conference organized by **Robert Ross**, Assistant Director of Counseling and Health Services. According to *The Press of Atlantic City*, the conference featured presentations from “accomplished students and adults with disabilities who have

demonstrated exemplary self-advocacy and leadership skills.” Ross stated, “What we want to promote is not to focus on the disability, but rather focus on the ability. These students were chosen by their teachers because there was something that the teachers saw in them.”

In May 2015, [The Press of Atlantic City](#) spotlighted Stockton’s collaboration with the Fort Lee Film Commission to present the first ever statewide high school film festival. **Lisa Honaker**, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, was one of the organizers of the event. According to *The Press of Atlantic City*, the "Best of the Fest" film producer received an internship with Shine Global, a nonprofit film production company based in New York City.

SCCE looks forward to acknowledging additional press coverage in fall 2015 and spring 2016. We value your commitment to the success of our community and encourage you to continue to make your mark!





## SCCE Student Fellows Program

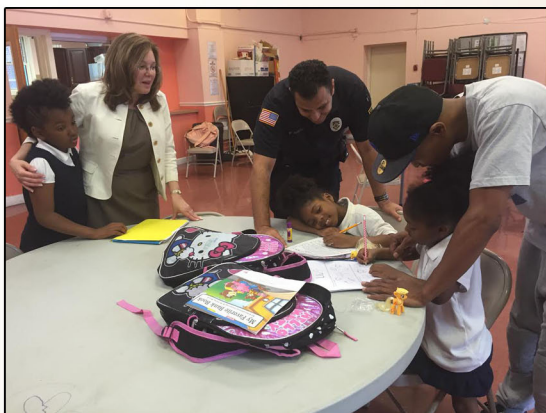
The SCCE Student Fellows are undergraduate and graduate Stockton students who have demonstrated an ability and interest in working with the community. The SCCE Executive Director, faculty, staff, and current fellows recommend students for a fellowship position. Student Fellows play an essential role in SCCE's initiatives and projects, as they offer continuity to these projects and lead Stockton student volunteers. During FY 2014, we increased the number of SCCE Student Fellows from five to 10 to meet the growth of SCCE's community partnerships.

The growth in community partnerships has expanded opportunities for Student Fellows to make an impact in the community. This growth has also allowed for stronger collaborations between SCCE and the Office of Service Learning, as there is more demand for Stockton students to volunteer in the community. The Office of Service Learning plays a key role in recruiting, training, and managing student volunteers that assist in community projects. The Office of Service Learning's website highlights SCCE community projects and provides a registration calendar for students to sign up to volunteer and request transportation if needed. The Executive Director of SCCE has access to this information, which facilitates planning with Student Fellows and enhances operations of community projects.

The following describes projects in which Student Fellows participated during AY 2014-2015.

### Homework Completion Program at Stanley S. Holmes in Atlantic City

The Stanley S. Holmes Village Homework Completion Program in Atlantic City, New Jersey began on September 15, 2014. The primary goal of the program is to engage children in their schoolwork and offer children a vision into the potential of a future college education. The program is also meant to foster trust in police officers.



This program is a collaboration between SCCE, the Atlantic City Police Department, and the Atlantic City Housing Authority and Urban Development Agency. These three organizations partnered to offer children a period of quiet homework time each day between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, at the community center of the Stanley S. Holmes Village apartment complex. During this period, Stockton University students and Atlantic City Police Officers monitored the homework time and assisted children age five to 11 with any questions they had. SCCE Student Fellow **Paul Campos**, led the program. Student Fellows **Askhia Khawaja**, **Melissa Zsitkovsky**, and **Lidia Martinez** also contributed. Stockton student Stephanie Medvetz conducted data analysis with the assistance of **Dr. Marissa Levy**.

Sixty-three children participated in the program during AY 2014-2015. Of these children, 21 participated in the program both fall and spring semesters. The program had 170 tutors—147 Stockton University students and 23 Atlantic City Police Department Officers. Tutors often reported that students seemed more focused and engaged in completing their homework. Additionally, students seemed to have a better relationship with police officers. The findings of a satisfaction survey created by **Dr. Sonia Gonsalves** and pilot tested by 15 (N=15) children mirror tutors' impressions. The survey is presented below.

**Homework Completion Program at Stanley S. Holmes Village**

1. How do you feel when you see a police officer?

2. What does a police officer do?

3. Who would you try to find if you needed help?

4. What is the best part of coming to the HCP at Stanley Holmes Village?

5. I love coming to the community room in Stanley Holmes Village!

Responses to the survey revealed the following:

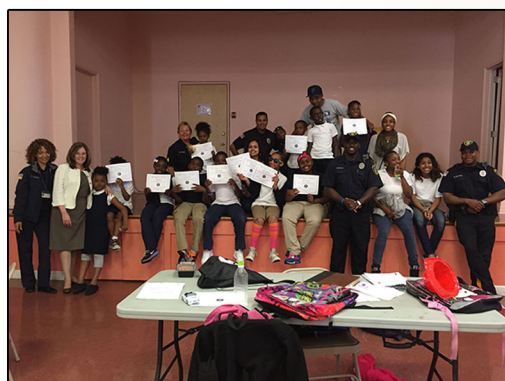
- Most respondents feel happy when they see a police officer.
- Most participants responded that police officers help and play with children.
  - This statement demonstrates that participants may have a more positive view of police officers.
- Most participants would go to a police officer if they needed help.
- Most participants felt that completing homework and receiving help was the best part about the Homework Completion Program.
  - This statement shows that the program is teaching the importance of completing homework, which is beneficial to school achievement.
- Most participants agreed with the statement that they love coming to the community room at Stanley S. Holmes Village.



The Homework Completion Program also hosted special events that involved faculty and student organizations. For example, **Dr. Jessica Bonnan-White** presented the American Red Cross Pillowcase workshop and taught children personal and family preparedness, local hazards and basic coping skills to use during a crisis. **Dr. Joseph Rubenstein** identified a local Atlantic City photographer and teacher, Ms. Glynnis Reed, who taught a five-day camera project to aid students in developing creative and critical thinking skills using photography. Students were also taught how to tell visual stories using photography. During the week, an average of 13 students per day participated in the workshop. **Dr. Wendel White** offered additional guidance for this camera project.



Moreover, Stockton students from the **Golden Key International Honour Society** and the Atlantic City Police Department donated costumes, games, crafts, snacks and candy to celebrate a Halloween Party during the fall semester. The Golden Key International Honour Society also donated books for the program in the spring semester.



Overall, the Stanley S. Holmes Homework Completion Program had a successful year. It supported both SCCE's and our institutional mission to serve the community. It also increased Stockton student engagement in the community as students, in collaboration with the Atlantic City Police Department and the Housing Authority, maintained the program for the Stanley S. Holmes' children. The Homework Completion Program also offered opportunities for faculty members to engage in the community.

Hosting the program in the community center, where the children live, eliminated common roadblocks that usually impede children's participation in afterschool programs, such as lack of transportation. The program also enhanced communications between the police and community residents. Additionally it enhanced our collaboration with the Atlantic City Police Department, the Housing Authority, and the Atlantic City Public School District. Notably, the school district's Title I Program provided meals for the children.

Please refer to the fall 2014 and spring 2015 semester reports found in the [appendix](#) for additional information regarding the Homework Completion Program.

## The Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City

Created in 2010, the Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City has recovered over 17,000 pounds of food and served over 14,000 meals. This year, 3,370 pounds of food were recovered and 2,092 meals were cooked, thanks to 322 volunteers who participated in the Campus Kitchen and/or Stockton Food Drive. The Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City is a collaborative effort between SCCE, the Atlantic City High School, the Atlantic City Board of Education, Sodexo, and the Southern Branch of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. During AY 2014, we also collaborated with the Atlantic County Homeless Alliance to identify families in need of food and deliver food to them.



Stockton students and Atlantic City High School students worked together under the supervision of a professional chef from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Monday afternoons to prepare 130 meals weekly for families in need within Atlantic City and Pleasantville. On Tuesdays from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm, the meals were plated and delivered throughout the community. SCCE oversaw this operation and collaborated with the Office of Service Learning to recruit students. During FY 2014, Service Learning Activist in Residence Rona Whitehead actively assisted in the recruitment and transportation of Stockton students to assist in the kitchen.

The Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City is affiliated with The Campus Kitchens Project in Washington, DC, which has been a national leader in community service for hunger relief since 2001. Their mission is threefold: strengthen bodies, empower minds, and build communities. Each of these pillars is achieved by partnering high schools and colleges to share on-campus kitchen space to recover food from cafeterias and engage students as volunteers who prepare and deliver meals to the community. Our Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City is a multi-community partner model, and each partner has a key role in the overall program's success.

Student Fellows play an essential role in this initiative. During AY 2014, four Student Fellows participated in the program. **Jessica Ryan** led the Campus Kitchen operations in the fall and **Melissa Zsitkovsky** and **Askhia Khawaja** took over leadership in the spring. **Paul Campos** recovered food from the Food Bank and delivered it to Atlantic City High School's commercial kitchen for preparation both semesters. Stockton students also play a vital role in the success of the Campus Kitchen. They develop partnerships, plan menus, administer cooking shifts, and deliver the food to families in need in Atlantic City, Galloway, Absecon, and Pleasantville.



Jessica Ryan, who graduated in May, was student leader for the Campus Kitchen since she began volunteering her sophomore year. Jessica stated, *"I have a passion for helping people, especially when it comes to food because one out of four children is unsure of where his or her next meal will come from. Students really enjoy volunteering with the Campus Kitchens Project and often return for the following weeks. They can see the impact they're making when they hand somebody a fresh meal."*

#### Stockton's Food Drive

As four of the 12 casinos in Atlantic City closed, the need for food in our community increased. In response, SCCE initiated Stockton's Food Drive in October to collect food from faculty and staff during the fall and spring semesters. This year, we collected 1,171 pounds of food. The food was donated to the Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City and the pantry at the New Day Family Success Center, Family Services Association in Galloway, one of the two existing pantries in Galloway. Food items donated at the Manahawkin Instructional Site were delivered to the King of Kings Church in Ocean County. SCCE Student Fellows **Heather Brilla-Swenson**, **Jessica Ryan**, and **Melissa Zsitkovsky**, along with the Office of Service Learning, Events Services, and Plant Management, played key roles in this initiative. SCCE Student Fellows and other student volunteers assisted in collecting and maintaining records of the food donated by faculty and staff. The Office of Service Learning volunteered to receive calls from faculty and staff for food retrieval. The Office of Events Services scheduled the room for food collection, and Plant Management staff delivered the food to the pantry in Galloway. We thank the Stockton community for the success of our inaugural food drive, which made a positive impact in our community. We look forward to its continuation in fall 2015 and spring 2016.



#### English Learner's Program at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

SCCE collaborated with Saint Mary's Episcopal Church and established a Memorandum of Agreement to implement an English Learner's Program for the parents of children who attend an after-school program at the church, located at 118 West Bayview Avenue in Pleasantville. The program began on January 20, 2015 and ended on June 16, 2015. SCCE Student Fellow **Lidia Martínez** worked with church staff members on Tuesdays from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm to provide English classes at the church. Stockton student Stephanie Medvetz conducted data analysis and analyzed the evaluations with the assistance of **Dr. Marissa Levy**.

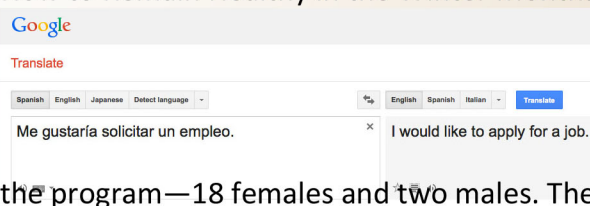
Nine women participated in the program. The participants' age ranged from 26 to 35. Seven participants' country of origin was Mexico and two participants' country of origin was El Salvador. Although seven participants attended secondary school, two participants only attended primary school. Most participants were unemployed; however, one participant worked part-time. The average annual income of participants was \$9,266.67.

At the conclusion of classes, participants were provided with a certificate of completion, which pleased them very much. Overall, participants enjoyed the program and found it helpful. Comments made by participants include “I very much liked the teacher. Thank you,” and “Excellent.” This positive feedback has prompted us to continue the classes this fall. Moreover, the program made a positive impact on Student Fellow Lidia Martínez as well. She reported,

*“I obtained self-confidence, developed my own leadership skills and believe in myself. It is important to give our community our best and by working with them closely is the way to show them how our work can make a difference. That's how my work as a fellow student involved in the community engagement project had an impact on the parents and also the community itself. It was an unforgettable and memorable experience.”*

### Academic and Cultural Enrichment Program

SCCE, in collaboration with Pleasantville Public School District’s Early Education Program and the Ministerio Por Gracia Sois Salvos church of Pleasantville, began the Academic and Cultural Enrichment Program in December 2014. The purpose of the program was to teach basic computer literacy and English to parents of children enrolled in the Early Education Program in Pleasantville. Karen Montoya, a Social Work Intern, taught the classes. Nicolle Singares, a health science student, also collaborated. She presented a workshop on “How to Remain Healthy in the Winter Months.”



Twenty parents participated in the program—18 females and two males. The average age of participants was 36.5 years old. Most participants were from Mexico; other countries represented were Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Perú. Most participants’ last year of schooling was secondary. Although most participants (11, 55%) had never heard of Stockton before attending the workshop, afterward, they were impressed with all Stockton has to offer. All classes were well-received; however, the class on how to access google translator was of special interest.

Participants were very excited to use this tool to learn about health services in Atlantic County. The following are some comments extracted from evaluations. For the purpose of this report, the original comments were translated from Spanish to English.

- “I needed this help because it is very important to learn computers for better employment”
- “I loved it and everything was excellent; more computer classes”
- “Very good class”
- “I am happy to have learned to do an email and photos”
- “Excellent class for guidance to the community”





Furthermore, SCCE arranged for Kelly C. Ayala, the Community Relations Officer of USCIS Newark District, to hold a discussion at Decatur Avenue School in Pleasantville on Naturalization, Customer Service Tools, the Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law (UPIL), and the Deferred Dream Act. Twenty parents as well as members of the community at large attended the session. The session's intent was to assess points of interest to address in future sessions. It was clear that the audience needed further information on the topics discussed. SCCE will continue its collaboration with Kelly Ayala to expand these informational sessions including classes on naturalization.

### Adopt-a-Town

In summer 2014, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination (FDRC) approached the SCCE to assist neighboring towns still recovering from Hurricane Sandy. Later, the SCCE officially launched the Adopt-a-Town initiative to provide assistance to Tuckerton and Little Egg Harbor.

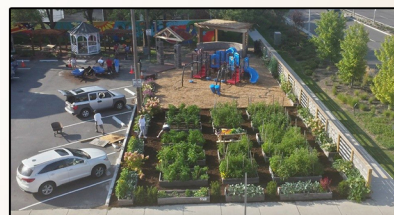
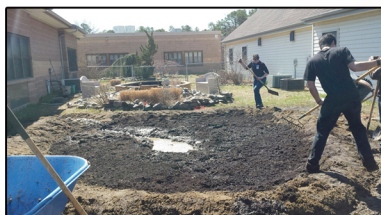


**Dr. Jennifer Barr**, professor of Business Studies and Marketing and **Dr. Diane Holtzman**, professor of Business Studies and Marketing, incorporated projects into their classes during FY 2015 to contribute to Adopt-a-Town initiatives. Dr. Barr's students from *Strategic Marketing* worked in teams to assist the marketing efforts of Seaport in Tuckerton. Students Jim Catanoso and Travis LaBounty built upon a previous team's SWOT analysis and marketing plan and recommended strategies for branding and promoting the Seaport in Tuckerton. Dr. Barr stated, *"The service-learning component is invaluable for the students as well as the agencies that they assist."*

**Dr. Diane Holtzman** also assigned projects in her *Marketing, Communication, and Social Media* class. Graduate students Matthew Fabiano and Bill Lewis completed an integrative marketing communications plan for Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum. Dr. Holtzman stated, *"Importantly, students help the community and see firsthand how their efforts help the organization and the community members."* Projects guided by Dr. Barr and Dr. Holtzman were well received by FEMA representatives and town officials.

The implementation of gardens has also been a function of Adopt-a-Town. SCCE Student Fellow **Maggie Buford** collaborated with **Dr. Patrick Hossay**, professor of Sustainability, to design and create a rain garden at the Frog Pond Elementary School in Little Egg Harbor. Student Fellows Maggie and **Sarah Lipuma** created a budget and formulated plans for the garden. Maggie Buford, Sarah Lipuma, and Ian Sullivan implemented the garden this spring.

### School and Community Gardens



On May 4, 2015, SCCE Student Fellow **Sarah Lipuma** offered an educational session to 100 children on how to create a garden at Robert C. Wood, Sr. Early Childhood Center in Little Egg Harbor Township. This educational session stemmed from a request to SCCE from Paula Guzman-Bell, Community Parent Involvement Specialist from Robert C. Wood, Sr. Early Childhood Center. Ms. Guzman-Bell was pleased with the presentation. So too was Sarah, who stated, “I just got done at the Robert C. Wood school, and it was an amazing experience. I taught over 100 4 year-olds how to plant their garden. It was the biggest responsibility of leadership I’ve had on my own. I really thank you for giving me the opportunity to teach these kids about gardening and the natural world. They really loved it.”



Moreover, SCCE Student Fellows **Jessica Webster**, **Sarah Lipuma**, and **Maggie Buford** worked on community gardens under the leadership of **Dr. Joe Rubenstein** and in collaboration with Cookie Till and AtlantiCare. During the summer, Student Fellow Jessica Webster and Stockton student Ian Sullivan continued to assist AtlantiCare and Ms. Till’s nonprofit, Work in Progress, in maintaining the garden for the Hamilton Memorial United Methodist Church on Arctic Avenue in Atlantic City, which was planted in spring 2014. Student Fellows also assisted in maintaining the garden at the Salvation Army on Texas Avenue in Atlantic City. Additionally, Stockton received an honorary plot at the Absecon

Light House Garden. Jean Muchanic, Executive Director of Absecon Lighthouse, called it the “Stockton Osprey Box,” which pleased our students. The following is a picture of Ian Sullivan weeding the garden plot.

### Diversity Training

In partnership with the Municipal Planning Board of Atlantic City and Pleasantville and the Department of Family and Community Development, the SCCE held a Diversity and Professionalism Training initiative. This training sought to positively influence service providers’ cultural competency and professionalism. Throughout AY 2015, nine sessions were offered with approximately 16 attendees each session. The total number of training attendees was 146. The SCCE Executive Director and Student Fellow **Paul Campos** provided these trainings. Stockton student Stephanie Medvetz analyzed the evaluations with the assistance of **Dr. Marissa Levy**.



Training participants ranged widely in age, work experience, and knowledge of cultural competency. Participants' age ranged from 26 to 68. The average age of all participants was 50.5 years old. The number of years participants practiced in their field of work ranged from zero to 45 years. The average number of years of practice was 17.5 years.

A Cultural Competency Survey including dimensions of diversity such as age, class, ethnicity, race, color, culture, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology and religion was administered before the training began. Responses indicated that the majority of respondents had heard about the dimensions of diversity before the training session and had an awareness of the dimensions of diversity. Most of the respondents (81, 55.5%) who answered the survey also indicated having received training to deliver culturally competent services. Moreover, most of the respondents indicated having considered most (105, 71.9%) and all (78, 53.4%) factors of diversity when engaging every customer.

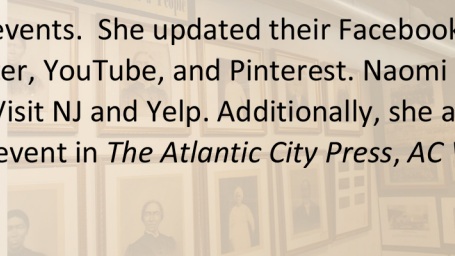
The training evaluations revealed that the majority of respondents (123, 84.2%) found the panelists interesting, effective and able to maintain their interest. Approximately half of the respondents (74, 50.7%) found the sessions extremely likely to have a positive impact on their day-to-day work. Furthermore, most of the respondents (140, 95.9%) stated that there were opportunities during the panel discussion to ask questions and most of the respondents (127, 87.0%) stated those questions were answered effectively.

A few common themes emerged from the evaluation's comment sections. The majority of participants found the panelists at each session to be inspiring, orally effective, and able to maintain their interest; however, there were multiple requests for a larger panel. Participants felt as if they would have learned more if there were more individuals on the panel. Moreover, participants suggested many different ideas for future trainings. Some of those suggestions include self-defense classes, customer service training, effective conflict resolution, productive interviewing, and sensitivity training.

In conclusion, the majority of feedback from these sessions was positive. The comments and suggestions from these surveys and evaluations also provided valuable feedback for the administration of the Department of Family and Community Development. Participants were able to ask questions and receive effective training. These opportunities allowed most participants to gain a greater understanding of the topic presented. The majority of the comments received from participants were also positive. Overall, the trainings reached a wide variety of individuals. Participants were able to learn about cultural competency and take away new information.

#### Marketing for African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey

During AY 2015, Student Fellow **Naomi Madden** collaborated with the staff of African American Heritage Museum to publicize their events. She updated their Facebook page and established several other social media accounts on Twitter, YouTube, and Pinterest. Naomi Madden also submitted business listings for the museum to Visit NJ and Yelp. Additionally, she advertised for the museum's Quilt Show and African Safari Photo event in *The Atlantic City Press*, *AC Weekly*, *At the Shore*, and *Daily Journal Millville*.



## SCCE Advisory Council

The Advisory Board met five times this year. The board participated actively in assessment activities. For example, the board selected the American Colleges and Universities Civic Engagement Value Rubric to assess students' civic learning outcomes. The board also gave recommendations to revise the language of questions used to elicit information on community engagement initiatives of faculty and staff in the Program Coordinator's reports. The revisions were made based on report findings from AY 2013 and 2014. The board also provided assistance in logistics to launch the Stockton Food Drive and other SCCE projects. Furthermore, the board supported increasing community representation among its members by inviting two affiliates who could serve as consultants. Chris Filiciello, Chief of Staff for Atlantic City Mayor, Dan Guardian, and Cindi Herdman-Ivins, President/CEO of Family Service Association, were pleased to receive an invitation to serve in this capacity.

It is important to mention that in addition to the Advisory Council, SCCE had an active Workgroup that explored and directed community engagement assessment and played a key role in the application for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification that was obtained in 2010. The Workgroup met three times this year. In light of the overlapping goals of these groups, which were composed of some of the same members, both groups agreed to join their efforts into one group to maximize effectiveness and enhance active participation of members.

SCCE values the contributions of each member of the Workgroup and the Advisory Council. Their expertise and collaboration have been invaluable to the success of SCCE.



## Upcoming Projects at a Glance

In partnership with the Atlantic City Police Department and the Housing Authority, SCCE will establish a homework completion program at Buzby Homes Village Community Center in Atlantic City. Additionally, we will launch naturalization classes at Kramer Hall in Hammonton and Carnegie Center in Atlantic City. This initiative will expand our community engagement at Stockton's instructional sites. I am pleased to report that SCCE is committed to these projects.

