



## Newsletter - December 2017

Welcome to the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy newsletter.



The Hughes Center has been exceptionally busy during the last few months as we hosted and moderated political debates and polled both legislatively and statewide during this election season. Kudos to our Stockton Polling Institute for the remarkably accurate job they did.

We celebrated our biennial Hughes Center Honors this year with six outstanding recipients and guest presenters that included former Vice President Joe Biden coming in to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to his longtime colleague and friend - and the Center's namesake - Ambassador William J. Hughes.

Now we are preparing to begin 2018 with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Neil M. Gorsuch coming in for a student-focused event.

To round this out, we are preparing for leadership changes at the Hughes Center. After a 10-year stint as the founding executive director, I am retiring January 1 and in a story below I invite you to meet the Center's new interim Executive Director, Dr. Michael Klein.

And now I want to take a few lines to thank all of you for your support, academically through participation in our many events and polls, and, yes, financially as we established the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy here at Stockton University. I appreciate all the support from Stockton, the Center's Steering Committee and you, the interested public that allowed the Center to first sprout and then flourish.

I wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy 2018 - and I look forward to a vibrant William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Thank you for your continued support. Please click on links below.

Cordially,

Sharon E. Schulman, Executive Director



**[2017 Hughes Center Honors](#)**  
Read about the event, honorees, and presenters.



**[Justice Gorsuch Visit](#)**  
Special event for students, faculty, and staff will take place January 23, 2018.



**[Incoming Interim Executive Director Michael Klein](#)**  
Get to know the new executive director of the Hughes Center.



**[2nd Legislative District Debates](#)**  
Get the inside scoop on the debates.



**[Latest Poll Results](#)**  
Learn about the latest findings from the Polling Institute.



**[Washington Internship Program Scholarship](#)**  
Meet the latest recipient of the Center's scholarship.

## **[2017 Hughes Center Honors](#)**

At the November 9 awards program, held at Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club and dedicated to civility in government, presenters and honorees alike lamented the lack of dialogue in government today and the need to restore the integrity the honorees represent.

"When Bill (Hughes) sat down with you, he listened," former Vice President Joe Biden said in presenting the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award to former U.S. Ambassador to Panama William J. Hughes. "He reached agreement and moved the process along. It is only through consensus that the United States can continue to function."



Biden and Hughes worked together in Congress when Hughes was in the House of Representatives and Biden was in the Senate. They became friends while riding the train to Washington, D.C. together, discussing not just policy, but also family. "Those hours were precious because we got to know each other," Biden said. "Back in our day people (in Congress) knew each other and respected each other. That invisible moral fabric that holds this country up is something you've always known," he told Hughes.

In his award acceptance speech, Hughes said it was Biden's pledge to clean up the Brandywine Creek in Delaware that inspired him to run for office to sanitize the ocean. The two also worked together on many anti-crime bills that addressed important issues, such as the sale of armor-piercing bullets and assault rifles. "I view my 50 years of success as a labor of love," Hughes said.

"Thank you for the opportunity to serve my community and my country. I've loved every bit of it. A willingness to compromise made it possible to create good public policy."

N.J. Senate President Steve Sweeney presented awards to state Sen. Diane Allen and Kathy Whelan, widow of the late Sen. Jim Whelan, who died in August. "He was so excited to be getting this," Kathy Whelan said tearfully. "Stockton was very important to him. We enjoyed looking out the window and seeing the dorms go up (on the new campus) in Atlantic City." Sweeney continued with the theme of civility, citing Whelan's class, dignity and humor and Allen's willingness to work together even though she is a Republican and he is a Democrat. "It is bittersweet for me to lose Diane (who is retiring)," he said. "We are losing someone we could work with, someone who cares about the people." Allen said that although government is broken right now, the status quo can improve. "It is important that you know there are still those who will work together," she told the audience of more than 500 people. "Civility is something we must work for."

Honoree and Stockton alumna Brigid Callahan Harrison, professor of political science and law at Montclair State University and political commentator, continued the theme of civility. "In an era when we are encouraged to hate, it is so very important to honor legislators who are willing to reach across the aisle," she said. U.S. Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman said she is thankful for the opportunity to let her voice be heard. "I try to get to know my Republican colleagues," she said. "Hyper-partisanship is destroying our country. We are better than what we are experiencing now."

The youngest honoree, 2017 Stockton graduate Maryam Sarhan, said she has been inspired by Stockton and her parents, who immigrated to America from Egypt sixteen years ago. She said Stockton President Harvey Kesselman has been a mentor who sets an example by passionately advocating for causes he values. "I will always cherish my time at Stockton," said Sarhan, who served as Student Senate president and a student trustee. "I hope to continue with opportunities for public service." President Kesselman also thanked Sharon Schulman, executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton who is retiring in January, for her success and dedication to the center. "Sharon has been a visionary for the center," Kesselman said, citing not only the programs the center has sponsored, but also the money Schulman has raised to support those programs.

[Back to Top](#)

## Justice Gorsuch Visit

The newest member of the United States Supreme Court, Associate Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, will visit Stockton University at a special event for students, faculty, and staff on January 23, 2018. The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton will host Justice Gorsuch as a special academic initiative for the Stockton community. It will not be open to the general public.

"We are honored to welcome Justice Gorsuch to the University," Stockton president Harvey Kesselman said. "This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Stockton students to hear directly from a sitting Justice about the crucial role of the United States Supreme Court."



Justice Gorsuch was born in Denver, Colorado in 1967. He received a B.A. from Columbia University, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a Ph.D. from Oxford University. He served as a law clerk to Judge David B. Sentelle of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

Circuit, and as a law clerk to Justices Byron White and Anthony M. Kennedy of the Supreme Court of the United States. From 1995-2005, he was in private practice, and from 2005-2006 he was Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General at the United States Department of Justice. He was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in 2006. He served on the Standing Committee on Rules for Practice and Procedure of the U.S. Judicial Conference, and as chair of the Advisory Committee on Rules of Appellate Procedure. He also taught at the University of Colorado Law School. President Donald J. Trump nominated Gorsuch as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and he took his seat on April 10, 2017. Justice Gorsuch and his wife Louise have two daughters.

[Back to Top](#)

### **Incoming Interim Executive Director Michael Klein**

Stockton University and the Hughes Center for Public Policy extend a hearty welcome to the new interim executive director of the Hughes Center, Michael W. Klein. Dr. Klein has had an impressive career, his latest position being the executive director of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, in which capacity he has served since 2012. Prior to that, Dr. Klein served in former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman's administration as an assistant counsel. He has also held positions in other areas of state government, including deputy director of legislative affairs for the Department of the Treasury, special assistant to the commissioner of Community Affairs, and legislative director to then-Assemblyman Leonard Lance, now a member of Congress (NJ-7).



"I am delighted to welcome Michael to Stockton," President Harvey Kesselman said. "He brings a wealth of knowledge about state government and higher education policy issues that will enhance the mission of the Hughes Center."

After receiving his undergraduate degree from Princeton University, Klein served as an aide to Governor Thomas Kean before attending law school. He received his JD from Boston College Law School, after which he worked briefly with the notable Morristown, NJ law firm Pitney Hardin Kipp & Szuch. In 2012, Dr. Klein earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from New York University.

Dr. Klein is a frequent contributor to scholarly publications which deal with a variety of issues, including politics, law, education, finance, and public policy. He also frequently writes opinion pieces, and his writings have appeared in such prominent media outlets as *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. He has also been a visiting lecturer in a number of universities, including Rutgers University, Louisiana State, and San Diego State.

Dr. Klein's renown is not limited to the United States. He has presented in Paris, Oxford, and London on topics ranging from management in higher education to education research. Considering his impressive resume, along with his experience and history of dedication to public policy, Stockton University and the Hughes Center for Public Policy are honored to have Dr. Klein as executive director.

[Back to Top](#)

## 2nd Legislative District Debates

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy and The Press of Atlantic City cosponsored debates between candidates in the state's 2nd Legislative District on Wednesday, October 25, 2017.

The Senate debates began at 6 p.m. in the Campus Center Theater on the Stockton University campus, and were open to the public. "The Hughes Center is committed to civic engagement. These debates provide a forum in which voters can evaluate where candidates stand on the issues," said Sharon Schulman, executive director of the Hughes Center. In recent elections, the 2nd District, which covers parts of Atlantic County, has been one of the most competitive districts in the state, Schulman said. The District 2 state Senate race pitted Republican Assemblyman Chris Brown against Democrat Colin Bell, an attorney and former Atlantic County freeholder.

In the state Assembly race, Democratic incumbent Vince Mazzeo and running mate John Armato ran against Republicans Vince Sera and Brenda Taube.

The moderator for the debates was John Froomjian, Senior Research Associate at the Hughes Center. The panelists were Nicholas Huba from the Press of Atlantic City, and Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Associate Professor of Political Science at Stockton University.



To participate in the debates, candidates must have met the following criteria:

- 1) Each candidate must have received at least 7 percent support in a Stockton Polling Institute poll taken in the 2nd District.
- 2) Each candidate must have reported raising and spending at least \$5,100, the minimum amount that triggers a state Election Law Enforcement Commission requirement to file a financial disclosure report 29 days before the November 7, 2017 general election.

[Back to Top](#)

## Latest poll results from the Polling Institute

Stockton University's Polling Institute called the correct winners in all of the races polled in the fall 2017 election. In the race for New Jersey governor, Democrat Phil Murphy was predicted to win by 14 points over Republican opponent Kim Guadagno, and Murphy won by 14 points.

In the 2nd Legislative District, the Stockton Poll showed Republican Chris Brown winning by 3 points with 10 percent undecided, and he won by 8 points.

In the 1st Legislative District, the Stockton Poll had Democrat Jeff Van Drew winning the Senate race by 33 percentage points, and his margin of victory turned out to be 31 points. In the Assembly race, polls pointed to victory for Democrats Vince Mazzeo and John Armato in the 2nd Legislative District, and they did win. In the 1st Legislative District polls, Democrats Bob Andrzejczak and Republican Bruce Land were projected to win, and the poll again proved to be correct.

S.U. Poll winner	Election winner	Poll point spread	Election spread
Governor - Murphy	Governor - Murphy	14	14
LD2 Senate - Brown	LD2 Senate - Brown	3	8
LD1 Senate - Van Drew	LD1 Senate - Van Drew	33	31
LD2 Assembly - Mazzeo, Armato	LD2 Assembly - Mazzeo, Armato	9	4
LD1 Assembly - Andrzejczak, Land	LD1 Assembly - Andrzejczak, Land	7	10

Learn more: [www.tinyurl.com/hc-polling-results-2017](http://www.tinyurl.com/hc-polling-results-2017)

[Back to Top](#)

### Hughes Center Scholarship for Washington Internship Program

Stockton's Washington Internship Program is an intensive academic and career-building experience in which Stockton students live, work, and study in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region for a semester. The cost of a Washington internship is generally comparable to a student's expenses while taking classes on Stockton's campus.

Each semester the Hughes Center provides \$1,000 to one student who participates in the program. The most recent recipient of the award is Rachel Wagner, a senior majoring in psychology with a concentration in mental health. With the assistance of The Washington Center, the coordinating agency for the student internships, Wagner obtained a position as an intern with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention as a public policy associate. Some of her daily tasks include tracking legislation of five committees in the House and Senate, keeping tabs on fifteen states in the central United States, and attending hearings and other forums. She is also working on two related projects: physician-assisted suicide research and suicide rates in juvenile detention centers. Through her participation in the program and her research in the two related fields, Wagner hopes to raise awareness and foster constructive debate about these two issues.



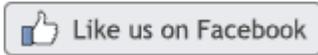
[Back to Top](#)

### Tell us what you think

Take a brief [survey](#) about the Hughes Center newsletter.

[Back to Top](#)





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