

## Newsletter - Spring 2022



One of my priorities since becoming director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy has been to involve the center in academics at Stockton University and especially more with students. Ambassador Hughes taught at Stockton and mentored young leaders. It was a natural direction in which to move.

The Hughes Center supports the Washington Internship Program, sponsors student research and collaborates with Stockton faculty. All those efforts got a boost when the center recently moved administratively under the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SOBL).

We are in the school that houses political science, economics, international affairs, law enforcement and social sciences. It's a perfect fit for a center focused on civic engagement and civility in government and named after a former prosecutor.

Hughes enjoys support from President Harvey Kesselman and Provost Leamor Kahanov. Now, SOBL Dean Marissa Levy has enthusiastically welcomed the center. This move cements our relationships with faculty whose interests intersect with ours. Working with them will enhance the center's research, public policy programs and our work with students.

The other good news is that this association will not affect our civic engagement work with the public. We will still bring in speakers, conduct polls and hold panel discussions as we always have. For example, we held the most election candidate debates ever last fall and staged a successful Hughes Center Honors.

In short, promoting academics while engaging the public should only increase the Hughes Center's value to all of our stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Froomjian, Executive Director

## In this issue:

- Read about the Hughes Center Honors 2021, the honorees, and presenters
- Learn about Constitution Day 2021 with Lorraine K. Bannai
- Welcome our new Steering Committee members
- Read about the debates the center sponsored in Fall 2021
- Review the latest Stockton Polling Institute updates
- Find out how the Hughes Center supports student engagement
- Stay tuned for more programming by the Hughes Center

## Hughes Center Honors 2021



The 2021 Hughes Center Honors took place on November 21 in the Campus Center on Stockton's Galloway campus. The biennial awards ceremony recognizes outstanding New Jerseyans for professional excellence and a commitment to public service, civility and bipartisanship, which reflect the life and career of Ambassador William J. Hughes, who served as U.S. ambassador to Panama and as a U.S. congressman for 20 years. The awards program is sponsored by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University.

**The Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award** was given to the Hon. Steven P. Perskie, a former state Senator, N.J. Casino Control Commission Chair, and retired Superior Court Judge. Previous Lifetime Achievement Award recipients include the late former New Jersey Gov. Brendan Byrne, former Governors Thomas Kean, Jim Florio and Christine Todd Whitman, and the late Ambassador Hughes, who was presented his award in 2017 by then-former Vice President Joe Biden.

**The Distinctive Alumni Leadership Award** was presented to Richard S. Dovey '75, who has served as President of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) for more than 27 years. Prior to joining ACUA, Dovey led the Atlantic County Regional Planning and Development Department. He has served on numerous industry councils and civic or

charity boards, and formerly chaired of the Stockton University Foundation Board of Directors.

**The Distinctive Student Leadership Award** was received by Danielle Combs, a 2021 graduate of Stockton, and an activist for social justice who helped revitalize the university's NAACP chapter and served as its president. She was a recipient of the Alan F. Arcuri Pre-Law Award, which provides a stipend to cover the cost of a prep program for the LSAT exam and a mentor for the law school application process. Combs intends to study law in order to protect vulnerable and underserved members of society.

**The inaugural Excellence in Community Leadership Award** was given to four South Jersey hospitals: AtlantiCare; Shore Medical Center; Cape Regional Health System; and Inspira Health, who along with their staff, have been working on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic while demonstrating leadership and service in battling COVID-19.

Watch video of the event [here](#).

## Constitution Day 2021 features Lorraine K. Bannai

On Sept. 21, 2021, the annual Constitution Day event took place online via Zoom. Legal scholar and author Lorraine K. Bannai delivered the keynote address, which was titled "Anti-Asian Hate: History, Law, Culture, and Coalition-Building" and included examples from her own family during World War II. Bannai is a Professor Emeritus of Seattle University School of Law, as well as Director Emeritus of the Law School's Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality.

Starting with the Fall 2021 semester, Constitution Day at Stockton has been administered by the Hughes Center together with professor of Political Science Linda J. Wharton, who has chaired the Constitution Day Planning Committee since 2006.



While her talk focused mainly on Asian Americans, Bannai acknowledged discrimination suffered by many different minorities. She noted the resurgence of Anti-Asian sentiment during the COVID-19 pandemic but said it has existed since Asians and other minorities first arrived in America. Bannai mentioned the 1905 Asiatic Exclusion League and noted it was not until 1952 that Asians were allowed to become naturalized citizens. After the attack on Pearl Harbor and throughout World War II, there were curfews for specific groups and 120,000 Japanese-Americans on the West Coast, including Bannai's grandparents and parents, were removed from their homes and sent to internment camps behind barbed wire.

Bannai served on the legal team that in 1981 successfully challenged the conviction of Fred Korematsu, who was convicted for refusing to comply with orders that resulted in the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II. The law school's Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at the Seattle University School of Law is named for the man she represented.

Bannai said she supports the rule of law but knows that the law itself is insufficient and must keep pushing forward. She also said it is crucial to learn about other people and cultures and treat people as individuals.

“Things can change if we each do our part,” she said.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the event.

## Welcome our new Steering Committee members

### Dr. Leamor Kahanov

Dr. Leamor Kahanov, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, serves as the Chief Academic Officer for Stockton University. In this role she oversees the seven academic schools and all academic support services. Prior to Stockton, Dr. Kahanov served as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at SUNY Oneonta.



Prior to her time at Oneonta, she served as Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Education at Misericordia University, Assistant Dean for Interprofessional Education and Practice at Indiana State University, and Chair of the Department of Applied Medicine and Rehabilitation at Indiana State University.

She has held faculty appointments at San Jose State University, San Francisco State University, and Rocky Mountain University. Professionally she has served as an Athletic Trainer for several institutions, and the Olympics.

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Her academic credentials include 84 Peer Reviewed Publications and 120 Peer Reviewed Presentations. She earned her Bachelor in Exercise Science and Athletic Training from Indiana University; her Master of Science in Exercise and Sports Sciences from the University of Arizona; and her Doctorate in Education, Curriculum and Instruction from the University of San Francisco. She also completed the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education at Harvard University.

### Benjamin Yandell

Benjamin Yandell is a junior Stockton University political science major, with a pre-law concentration and an economics minor. He serves as the Stockton Student Senate’s Governmental Affairs chairperson. Additionally, he sits on the Senate Diversity & Inclusion Committee and serves as the Campus Public Safety liaison. Outside of Student Senate, he works for the university as a writing tutor. He hopes later to enter the law someday obtain a judgeship and possibly go into politics.



## Hughes Center sponsors candidate debates in Fall 2021

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy hosted five in-person candidate debates over four nights in the fall of 2021. On Sept. 23 in conjunction with the Atlantic County League of Women Voters, a debate among Atlantic County Commission candidates took place in the Campus Center Theatre. The debate was streamed live on the Hughes Center's website, as well as by the Press of Atlantic City. The participants included candidates for at-large commissioner (Frank X. Balles (R) and Celeste Fernandez (D)), District 2 commissioner (Jelani Gandy (D) and Maureen Kern (R)), and District 3 commissioner (Andrew Parker (R) and Thelma Witherspoon (D)). The debate was moderated by Michael Richter of the League of Women Voters of Camden County.

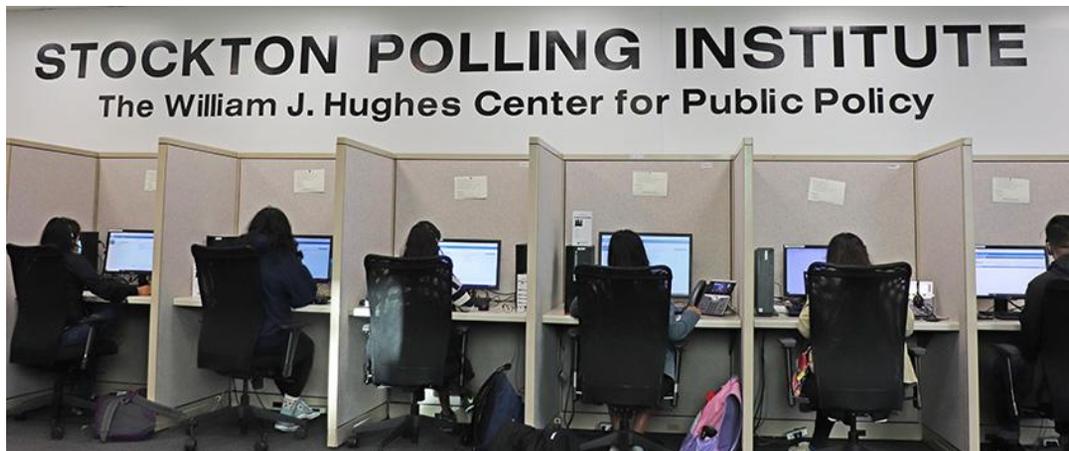


On Oct. 6, the Legislative District 2 State Senate and District 2 State Assembly debates were held in the Fannie Lou Hamer Event Room at the John F. Scarpa Academic Center on the Atlantic City campus and were moderated by John Froonjian and held with panelists Nicholas Huba and Clyde Hughes. In the Senate debate, the two candidates were Vincent Mazzeo (R) and Vincent Polistina (D). In the Assembly debate, the four candidates were John Armato (D), Caren Fitzpatrick (D), Don Guardian (R), and Claire Swift (R).

Other debates included Atlantic City mayor in the Fannie Lou Hamer Event Room at the John F. Scarpa Academic Center on the Atlantic City campus on October 19, and the debate for Atlantic County clerk, which took place in Meeting Room 5 in the Campus Center in Galloway.

You can find recordings of the debates on our [YouTube channel](#).

## Stockton Polling Institute Updates



The Stockton Polling Institute will mark its 10th anniversary in September. Public opinion polling has encountered enormous challenges and changes since Stockton University students began calling South Jersey residents in 2012 to ask about the 2nd Congressional

District election. In the coming academic year, the Polling Institute will adapt to the changing polling environment.

In recent years, many people have stopped answering their phones. This has made it harder and more expensive to conduct phone interviews. Recently, cell phone carriers have begun marking polling calls as "potential spam," further depressing response rates. And in our divided political culture, some Republicans refuse to cooperate with pollsters, who they see as part of the establishment. This has especially made election polls difficult to call accurately, and most New Jersey pollsters missed the strong showing by Gov. Phil Murphy's GOP opponent in November.

Going forward, the Stockton Polling Institute will cease conducting head-to-head election polling as it cannot accurately reflect the electorate, with a significant portion missing from results. The call center from which student interviewers have made calls will also close.

The Hughes Center will still conduct polls under Research Associate Alyssa Maurice's guidance, with some students being hired to text links to online surveys to potential respondents, and with an external vendor whose calls are not labeled as spam making telephone calls. The Institute will adapt to changing times and move more work online.

From the beginning, the Stockton Polling Institute has stood for accurate, statistically valid survey research. And that is one fact that will not change.

To learn more about the Stockton Polling Institute, visit: <https://stockton.edu/hughes-center/polling/polling-institute.html>.

## The Hughes Center Supports Student Engagement

The Center is proud to sponsor research conducted by Stockton University students. The Hughes Center established a student research internship in Fall 2019. Each semester, a student intern researches a public policy issue and produces a paper on that topic. The full list of student research papers can be found [here](#).

The latest student researcher was Erin Kee, a Political Science major with a minor in writing. She is interested in finding ways to better communicate public policy to the public. She is the secretary for the Model United Nations club and a member of the Society of Professional Journalists. After graduating, Erin plans on continuing her education at McGill University in pursuit of her M.A. in public policy.



The Hughes Center also continues to financially support Stockton University students in the Washington Internship Program, which provides work experience through internships in government, business and nonprofits for participants in the nation's capital. Stockton has participated in the program since the mid-1970s, and more than 1,300 students have spent a semester living, working, and studying in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

During the Fall 2021 semester, the Center awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Caitlyn Githens, who is a senior pursuing a bachelor of arts in Communication Studies with a concentration in Public Relations.

## Upcoming programming by the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, together with Stockton's Constitution Day Planning Committee and the American Democracy Project, will be hosting a special presentation, "Back to Basics: The First Amendment in the College Classroom," by Frank Corrado, Esq. on constitutional protection for freedom of speech in the university setting. Corrado is the past president of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey. His legal practice concentrates on civil rights and constitutional law, with a special emphasis on the First Amendment. He has taught courses on the First Amendment at Rutgers Law School, served as Stockton's Visiting Specialist in Constitutional Law from 1998-2001 and subsequently taught a First Amendment course on campus. The presentation will focus on a variety of First Amendment issues, including hate speech and "cancel culture."



Senator Vincent Polistina, representative from the 2nd Legislative District in southern New Jersey, will visit Stockton University in March as the Spring 2022 Legislator-in-Residence. He will participate in the program and meet students, faculty, researchers and administrators on the Galloway campus.

Also, stay tuned for our late spring speaker event, which will be announced soon on our website at [stockton.edu/hughescenter](https://stockton.edu/hughescenter).



William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University | 101 Vera King Farris Drive,  
Galloway, NJ 08205

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