



## **William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy To Honor Five Outstanding New Jerseyans**

Gov. Thomas Kean to Accept Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award

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

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**Contact: Maryjane Briant  
News and Media Relations Director  
Galloway Township, NJ 08205  
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu  
(609) 652-4593**

**Galloway Township, NJ** -The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy today announced the 2015 Hughes Center Honors, recognizing the achievements of five outstanding New Jerseyans. Former New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean will receive the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award.

The honorees include retired Associate Justice John E. Wallace Jr., of the New Jersey Supreme Court, who will receive the Civility in Government and Politics Award; State Senator Chris Connors of the 9th District, who will receive the Distinctive Alumni Leadership Award; Edward J. Graham, chairman and CEO of South Jersey Industries, who will receive the Excellence in Civic Engagement Award; and Carl Archut Jr., president of the Stockton Student Senate, who will receive the Distinctive Student Leadership Award.

The Honors are awarded for professional excellence and a commitment to public service, civility and bipartisanship which reflects 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 event will take place on **Feb. 6, 2015** at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club in Galloway, NJ, beginning with a reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by the awards program at 6:30 p.m.

### **THE HONOREES**

**Thomas H. Kean** served as governor of New Jersey from 1982 to 1990. He promoted the State's identity through "The New Jersey and You — Perfect Together" campaign; and was known for innovation in education; higher education and private sector technology partnerships; expanded support for the arts; and protection of inland waterways and freshwater wetlands and **-more-**

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other environmental resources. After leaving office, Governor Kean served as the president of Drew University from 1990 to 2005. In December 2002, he was named by President George W. Bush as chair of the National Commission on Terrorism Attacks Upon the United States.

**John E. Wallace, Jr.** is a retired New Jersey Supreme Court Justice, and is Counsel to the firm of Brown and Connery. He concentrates his practice in mediation, arbitration and complex litigation. Justice Wallace's career as a jurist spanned over twenty five years. Appointed to the Superior Court of New Jersey in 1984, he was elevated to the Appellate Division in 1992 and nominated and confirmed to the Supreme Court in 2003. Mr. Wallace received his bachelor degree from the University of Delaware and his law degree from Harvard Law School.

**Christopher J. Connors** is a New Jersey State Senator from district 9 which includes Galloway Township. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Stockton College. He also earned his M.P.A. from Rutgers University and his J.D. Rutgers School of Law-Camden. He currently practices law with firm of Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky, Cherkos & Connors. Prior to his tenure in the State Senate, Mr. Connors also served in the General Assembly, on the Lacey Township Committee and as Mayor of Lacey Township.

**Edward J. Graham** is chairman and chief executive officer of South Jersey Industries. An alumnus of Rider University for his undergraduate degree, Graham holds a Master of Business Administration degree in finance and investment from Drexel University. He is a member of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and serves as a member of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

**Carl Archut, Jr.** is president of the Stockton Student Senate and was selected as Student Senator of the Year in 2013-2014 for the Involvement Awards.

Archut, of Paulsboro, NJ, is a junior pursuing a degree in Liberal Studies with concentrations in Leadership and Hospitality Management.

He is also very active with the Xi-Rho chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Stockton, which recently received the most Scholarship Leadership Awards in New Jersey and was ranked #2 in the nation with the most awards received from the national fraternity's endowment fund. Archut was a recipient of one of those scholarship leadership awards.

With his extensive experience in campus life, he is considering a career in Student Affairs and plans to pursue a Master's degree in higher education administration upon graduating in May 2016.

For more information about the Hughes Center Honors, including sponsorships and tickets, visit: [stockton.edu/hughescenter](http://stockton.edu/hughescenter)

**The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy** at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey.

The Center is named for Ambassador William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be found at [www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College](http://www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College) and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.

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