Net Assets of Stockton Foundation Reach Nearly $34 Million, a 13 Percent Increase

Net assets of the Stockton University Foundation reached $33,893,439 as of Dec. 31, 2016, according to Stockton’s second quarter financial data.

The nearly $34 million total is a 13 percent increase over the $29,971,477 total at the end of FY16.

“The Stockton Foundation has been on a path of sustained growth for a number of years,” said Chief Development Officer Philip Ellmore, who also serves as executive director of the University Foundation.

“We thank our generous donors who choose Stockton as the place to make a difference through their philanthropy. We also thank the Investment Committee of the Foundation Board for its thoughtful and prudent management of these assets which has led to valuable market gains,” Ellmore continued.

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Stockton Community Gathers to Raise Flag for Black History Month

The Stockton community kicked off Black History Month at the Unified Black Students Society’s annual flag-raising ceremony held outside the Arts & Sciences Building on Feb. 1.

President Harvey Kesselman; Jeff Wakemen, director of Student Development; Dianne Stalling, assistant director of Student Development, and Stockton students together raised the traditional red, black and green flag.

“If the thought, even for one second, comes to mind that we can rest on the laurels of previous civil rights victories... we’d better think again,” Kesselman said. “So as we begin our observance of Black History Month... I am encouraged that all of us can look to the flag with humility in remembrance of the tremendous costs paid by so many African Americans, and so many people of all cultures, in the name of liberty.”

Patricia Reid-Merritt, Donnetrice Allison, Mel Gregory, Ryan Terrell, and Dianne Stalling stand with student members of the Unified Black Students Society in front of the raised Pan-African flag.
Staff Share Their Stories of Adversity in Diversity at MLK Panel

More than 200 local high school students attended Stockton’s second annual Martin Luther King, Jr. panel discussion, “Adversity in Diversity: What Are the Critical Conversations in 2017?” At the event, held on Jan. 23, panelists shared how their experiences with both adversity and diversity have intertwined.

Panelists included: Michael Angulo, Stockton’s general counsel and director of Government Relations; Jason Babin, assistant director of Student Rights & Responsibilities; Jonathan L. Johnson, director of Community Wellness & Health Education; Tiffany J. Rice, complex director of Housing IV and V; and Councilman Kaleem Shabazz of Atlantic City’s Third Ward; and moderator Brian Pluchino, co-chair of Stockton’s MLK panel committee. Brian Jackson, COO of Atlantic City campus, gave welcoming remarks.

Angulo shared his immigration story with the crowd, explaining how his parents fled the Philippines due to political unrest and came to America when Angulo was 3. Throughout his life, he faced discrimination. “I was visiting a friend in college... and one of his relatives says, ‘You ain’t American, are you?’” Angulo said. “At that time, I was still insecure about who I was. I just didn’t respond. That is what drives me today; that is what made me go into law... Be a leader in your community.”

Johnson emphasized to the students the importance of understanding one’s own identity. “Understand today who you are and why. Identify what you’re passionate for and think and behave freely,” he said. “Typically, we think about ‘what’s your race or ethnicity?’ But really, your identity is a lot of different things: school, gender, sexual orientation, culture, faith. Value all of those things; allow people to know who you are and don’t be ashamed of who you are.”

Babin explained his nervousness about speaking on the panel, as a “short, white male,” but told students that is only “one part” of his identity. “I didn’t know how I wasn’t sure if my message could come across... I was really nervous about that... But... I am a member of the LGBT community,” he said, as the crowd applauded. “This is my identity, and this is who I am... I have been discriminated against by the same minorities that are being discriminated against. It’s a horrible cycle... and that is why this panel is so important - so that we can break down biases... to have one message: to be treated equally.”

Rice shared lessons learned, including the strength she received from her mom, who taught Rice to take pride in her work, and her younger sister. “Don’t be ashamed of who you are. Don’t be afraid to speak up,” Rice said. “My sister has never been ashamed of herself, and there were many times I was, but she taught me... People ask, ‘How can your little sister encourage you?’ I say, ‘Why not? How could she not be a mentor or someone I could look up to? I look to her for guidance. So, work hard, continue to work hard even if you don’t love what you’re doing, because that is not your permanent place.’

Patricia Reid-Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Africana Studies, recently edited a two-volume work, “Race in America: How a Pseudoscientific Concept Shaped Human Interaction,” published this month by ABC-CLIO, Praeger Imprint.

The essays in the book address a variety of race-related issues in the areas of education, social legislation, immigration, media, law, mass incarceration, racial profiling and intimate social relations.

Stockton faculty members joined other renowned scholars as contributing authors to the two-volume set, all of whom represented diverse groups in America. Donnetrice Allison, associate professor of Communications and Africana Studies; Daniel Mallinson, assistant professor of Political Science; and Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science, wrote essays.

“After teaching about race and ethnic relations for more than 40 years, I couldn’t resist the opportunity to become the editor of this significant body of work,” said Reid-Merritt. “There are many critical issues that should be at the forefront of social discourse on race in America.”
Tom Papademetriou, professor of Historical Studies, has been selected to be the Edwin C. and Elizabeth C. Whitehead Member at the Institute for Advanced Study, an independent “curiosity-driven” research institute located in Princeton, N.J.

Papademetriou joins the Institute as a visiting scholar in the School of Historical Studies, which, according to its website, “bears no resemblance to a traditional academic history department, but rather supports all learning for which historical methods are appropriate.”

Among the faculty and members are 33 Nobel Laureates, 41 of the 56 Fields Medalists, and 16 of the 17 Abel Prize Laureates, as well as many MacArthur Fellows and Wolf Prize winners. Among the past faculty include Albert Einstein, who remained at the institute until his death.

“It is a huge honor for me to be part of the institute as a member. I always knew about the institute when I was a graduate student at Princeton, but never was connected until now,” Papademetriou said. “I had always marveled at the high quality of research and scholarship produced here, and the great people it attracts. Each day is so stimulating. It certainly lives up to its reputation.”

As part of the Islamic Studies cohort, Papademetriou’s field of study is Christian-Muslim relations. His current project examines the history of non-Muslims in Ottoman society by studying the Patriarchate of Constantinople’s transformation from a weak institution at the end of the 16th century to a powerful religious and civil authority representing the greater Greek Orthodox community to the Ottoman Porte by the end of the 18th century.

The residential fellowship, which lasts for the duration of Spring 2017, requires faculty and members to focus only on “the things we are curious about.” Papademetriou also attends a weekly Islamic Studies seminar and a lunchtime talk for all historians, which he described as “fascinating.”

“While Stockton emphasizes ‘students first,’ we also emphasize research and scholarship, especially in our Historical Studies program,” he said. “This fellowship gives me an opportunity to model the very things we teach our students. I am grateful to my Stockton University colleagues and administration for valuing and supporting this work.”
Rottler Named Interim Director of Stockton Affiliated Services, Inc.

James “Jim” Rottler joins the Division of Administration & Finance as Interim Director of Stockton Affiliated Services, Inc. (SASI).

Rottler has more than 25 years of experience in the hospitality and gaming industry, where he served in leadership positions focusing on financial analysis and customer service, primarily in the areas of food and beverage, hospitality and gaming.

He most recently served as Director of Administration at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa where he was responsible for financial modeling, forecasting, assisting with the development of business plans and ensuring proper staffing and service levels.

Rottler is a graduate of the Rutgers University School of Business in Camden, N.J.. He is a life-long resident of Voorhees, N.J., where he resides with his wife and three children.

Andrea Neiderhofer Retires from Office of Budget & Fiscal Planning

Andrea Neiderhofer of the Office of Budget & Fiscal Planning retired Feb. 1 after more than 30 years of service at Stockton University.

Neiderhofer began working at Stockton as a clerk typist in the Cashier’s Office (now the Bursar’s Office) in March of 1986. She spent 18 years in the Bursar’s Office, working her way up to a professional services specialist before moving to the Budget Office for the remaining 12 years of tenure. She retired as an associate director of Budget.

Neiderhofer also earned her undergraduate degree in Business Studies with a concentration in Accounting at Stockton while working full-time and raising three children.

Some of her most rewarding memories at Stockton include working with the National Guard, Unemployment and Workforce Development students and seeing them reach their goal of graduation, Neiderhofer explained. Her favorite memories include working with “all the caring, dedicated employees on a daily basis” who “don’t always get recognized, but make a difference every day in the hard work that they do.”

“I will be retiring with my husband, Bill, and moving to Florida to care for my mom,” Neiderhofer said. “I will miss my Stockton family, but I will carry so many wonderful memories with me into this new chapter. Thank you for all that you’ve given me.”

Send Us Your News!

We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. Do you have an unusual hobby? Did one of your co-workers win an award or perform outstanding public service? Births, weddings, graduations and the like are all good things to submit to The Stockton Times. Also, tell us what you think of the new design! Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 or email StocktonTimes@stockton.edu.

News about distinguished students can now be found at Distinctive Stockton Students. To contribute a news item for the blog, please contact the editor at distinctive@stockton.edu

SAVE THE DATES

- Feb. 18-19: StockHack
- Feb. 22: Stockton University Board of Trustees Meeting
- Feb. 27: 15th Anniversary Gala for African American Heritage Museum
- March 2-3: Matthew Sandusky Speaks
- March 25: African-American History & Genealogy Symposium
- April 22: Stockton University Scholarship Benefit Gala