

## THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

---

Office of Public Relations  
Pomona, NJ 08240

# Stockton College Lends its Support as “Nine Strong for a Stronger New Jersey” Campaign is Launched

**Presidents Sign Pledge; New Web Sites Launched**

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

Friday, September 19, 2008

**Contact: Tim Kelly**  
**Stockton Public Relations**  
**(609) 652-4950**

TRENTON, NJ – Stockton College Provost David Carr, representing President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., joined with eight New Jersey public college and university presidents or their representatives in support of a major statewide campaign, “Nine Strong for a Stronger New Jersey,” an effort designed to underscore the collective value and critical role of public higher educational institutions in the state. In ceremonies on Tuesday at Thomas Edison State College, the presidents signed a pledge to the State of New Jersey, expanding their commitment to educating the next generation of the state’s students.

In addition to Stockton the other eight institutions include The College of New Jersey, Kean University, Montclair State University, New Jersey City University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Rowan University, Thomas Edison State College, and William Paterson University – and represent nearly one-half of all students who attend a four-year college or university in New Jersey. Together, these nine institutions have grown dramatically in strength and academic excellence over the past two decades years and now produce more than 15,000 graduates a year in New Jersey.

The statewide commitment will be centered around a new web portal: [www.njascu.org/NineStrongforNJ](http://www.njascu.org/NineStrongforNJ), managed by the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU), of which the nine institutions are members.

"These nine colleges and universities are determined to elevate higher education to the top of the agenda in this state," said Ramapo President, Peter Mercer. Rowan University President, Donald Farish added, "The link between economic strength and economic competitiveness is higher education. And these nine state colleges and universities want the public to know that our role is to help make sure New Jersey's future is stronger and more secure."

**-more-**

## Stockton College Supports Nine Strong / page 2

"The next generation of New Jerseyans depends on our nine institutions and our success in meeting each of the six points in this pledge," said R. Barbara Gitenstein, President of The College of New Jersey. "We have come here today to show the people of New Jersey that higher education in our state is thriving, growing, and now focusing on the challenges presently before us."

The nine college presidents signed a pledge with the following six components:

1. With renewed determination, find new state and private resources to extend our commitment to serve more New Jerseyans, keep more talented students here, extend and expand academic programs and services, distance learning, and graduate more students in fields important to the vitality to the state.
2. Strengthen our commitment to provide residential housing to traditional age students to help stem net student out-migration and broaden service to adult students.
3. Continue to ensure that our degree programs permit students to graduate in a timely manner, thereby moving graduates more rapidly into the workforce.
4. Improve our collective rank, now number three nationally, in degree productivity for public and tuition dollars invested.
5. Expand and develop new partnerships with businesses for economic and workforce development.
6. Report on graduates' employment status one year following graduation, as an important measure of our institutions' alignment with workforce and economic development needs.

Also today the Association launched the New Jersey College Promise Action Network. The network will link people who care about the nine state colleges and universities with those in a position to make these institutions a higher priority -including the New Jersey Governor and Legislature. Participation in the network is purely voluntary and is open to students, their family members, alumni, staff, trustees, educators, and other friends of the institutions. To participate, please visit [www.njcollegepromise.com](http://www.njcollegepromise.com).

# # #