



Richard Stockton College to Dedicate Library in Honor of its First President, Dr. Richard Bjork on April 11

Special Event to Include Program on Dr. Bjork's Contributions and Legacy

For Immediate Release

Friday, April 06, 2012

Contact: Tim Kelly
Office of Public Relations
Galloway Township, NJ 08240
Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4950

Galloway Twp., NJ -- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will recognize the accomplishments its first President, Dr. Richard E. Bjork, by dedicating the College Library in his honor next week.

The College will conduct a special ceremony at 3 p.m. on Wednesday April 11, in the E/F-Wing Gallery directly outside the Library entrance here. The dedication, featuring remarks by President Herman J. Saatkamp and Board of Trustees Chair Stanley M. Ellis, will be followed by a panel discussion entitled "The Legacy and Presidency of Richard Bjork" to take place at the Campus Center Theatre. There will also be an exhibition of items from the Library archives from the era of Dr. Bjork's administration.

The late Dr. Bjork served Stockton, which was then known as Stockton State College, from 1969 until 1978. Dr. Bjork was 38 when he was appointed, two years prior to the start of classes. He presided during the planning and construction of the early phases of the present campus and its first semester of classes in the former Mayflower Hotel on the Atlantic City boardwalk. Dr. Bjork was instrumental in the selection of the early members of the faculty, curriculum development and in writing policies, many of which are still in place.

A native of Oregon, Dr. Bjork earned his bachelor's degree in international relations at Yale

-More-

Stockton to Honor First President Richard E. Bjork / page 2

University, a master's in political science at Vanderbilt University, and -- after serving in the United States Coast Guard -- his Ph.D. in international relations from Michigan State University, where he became an assistant professor.

Dr. Bjork held the position of Vice Chancellor of New Jersey's Department of Higher Education and Acting President of Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) prior to his appointment as Stockton's first president.

In his higher education career, Dr. Bjork also held positions as Dean of Students at Austin College in Sherman, Texas; Dean of Liberal Arts at New York State University at Plattsburgh, and Assistant to the President at Rochester Institute of Technology.

After Stockton, Dr. Bjork served as Chancellor of the Vermont State College system.

The panel discussion will be moderated by Dr. Kenneth Tompkins, Professor Emeritus of Literature who was a colleague of Dr. Bjork. Panelists will be Ms Carol Brown (Stockton class of 1979) who was Dr. Bjork's secretary, Dr. Richard Chait, his former executive assistant; Distinguished Professor of Political Science Bill Daly, and former Vice President for Administration and Finance Richard Gajewski.

"Every day of our lives (at Stockton) are influenced positively by the decisions Dick Bjork made 40 years ago," Tompkins said.

Dr. Bjork was just 53 when he passed away in 1984, survived by his wife Joan and two daughters. Mrs Bjork will be in attendance for the events of April 11,

Both the dedication ceremony and panel discussion program are free and open to the public.

#