



### **Focus on Richard Stockton College of New Jersey**

Richard Stockton College, with just over 7,000 undergraduates and another 1,400 graduate students, has experienced tremendous growth over the past several years in the size of the student body and number of degree programs. The physical plant ten minutes from Atlantic City is also growing, with an enormous new Campus Center, a Unified Sciences building opened this year and two more academic buildings under construction.

The school's dynamic leadership, utilizing some profitable real estate investments, is pursuing 24 long-range projects that will assuredly make Richard Stockton more well-known outside the South Jersey region from which it has historically drawn most of its students. Four hundred thousand dollars have already been committed to projects destined for completion by 2016.

The beautiful, pristine campus, said to be the second safest in New Jersey, is situated in the Pinelands National Reserve 45 minutes from Philadelphia and 90 minutes from New York City. At present only one percent of the students come from outside the state, but the number of applications has risen from 4,500 to 6,100 in the past four years. It is a religiously and ethnically diverse community, with minority students comprising twenty-five percent of the student body.

Generous merit-based scholarships and some specific programs have helped the school to attract attention as it has climbed steadily in a number of rankings, and the aim is to begin drawing more out-of-state students.

The sciences and allied health departments are especially strong, and the administration boasts that 24% of all the science majors graduating from four-year public colleges in New Jersey graduate from Richard Stockton. Marine Biology, utilizing multiple field stations close to the campus, has long been popular, and Environmental Science is prominent too.

Relatively new programs in Communication Disorders, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy are especially competitive to get into, as are the Nursing and Pharmacy programs. The

1,650 acre main campus has two hospitals which serve them. Coming in 2014, a Physician Assistant program will be offered, too, in conjunction with Philadelphia University.

Hospitality and Tourism Management are the other most prominent programs, taking advantage of the proximity to Atlantic City (where four of the five biggest casino owners are Stockton alumni) and also of a magnificent recent acquisition: Seaview, a four-star golf resort the college purchased from Marriott for its students to run. Some two hundred of them are also privileged to have their housing and meals at Seaview.

In addition to the 1650 acre main campus and Seaview ten minutes' drive away, Stockton has several other instructional sites, an arboretum and a community farm. A shuttle takes students around the campuses as well as to shopping centers and movie theaters, but there is also ample free parking for students with cars.

Stockton's Campus Center provides extensive programming for student entertainment, and the Division 3 athletics include 18 varsity teams, among them a championship-winning soccer team and a brand new women's lacrosse team.

