

Stockton University to Receive National Award for Excellence and Innovation in Sustainability

American Association of State Colleges and Universities Award

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Galloway, N.J. - Stockton University, whose Galloway campus is located in the Pinelands National Reserve, will receive the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Excellence and Innovation Award for Sustainability and Sustainable Development, the AASCU announced today.

"Stockton University has embraced sustainability in its development and operational practices through the Stockton Sustainability Initiatives," said the AASCU, a higher education association of more than 400 public colleges, universities and systems.

Sustainability refers to systems or processes with the power to endure and thrive despite pressures involving ecology, economics, politics or culture. Sustainability is one of the four pillars of the Stockton education, along with Learning, Engagement and Global Perspectives.

"Stockton has set aside large areas of campus as natural laboratories and to preserve a number of ecologically sensitive pinelands habitats," the AASCU noted. "Stockton has embraced LEED building specifications where possible and has long been a leader in introducing and studying alternative energy practices, including geothermal and solar."

The university's Campus Center earned LEED® Gold certification in 2012 for its efficient energy use, lighting, water and material use, as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies into its design and operation. LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

"Stockton University is a recognized leader in both environmental education and sustainable

President Harvey Kesselman. "When first constructed our geothermal system, with more than **-more-**

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400 geothermal wells that use groundwater to assist in the heating and cooling of university buildings, was the nation's largest. Our innovative Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage system, added in 2008, assists in the heating and cooling of several Stockton facilities, and was a national first for a U.S. college or university. Stockton also was the first public entity in New Jersey to receive approval for its Forest Management plan in 2015."

The AASCU noted that Stockton has developed an academic sustainability program and offers a B.A. and B.S. in Sustainability Science. A certificate in energy is also offered through the Physics and Sustainability programs.

"Stockton offers the only stand-alone Sustainability bachelor's degrees in New Jersey and is