

Stockton Receives 'Insight into Diversity' 2016 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award

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Galloway, N.J. - Stockton University today received the 2016 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a recipient of the annual HEED Award — a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion — Stockton University will be among those featured in the November 2016 issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

“Stockton is extremely honored to receive this award recognizing the university’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, which are among the institution’s most cherished and deeply held principles,” said President Harvey Kesselman. “Since our founding, Stockton has always valued differences and promoted mutual respect, fairness, community outreach and the open exchange of ideas.”

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine selected Stockton to be among 83 institutions honored nationwide, based on a number of factors, including successful efforts to increase the diversity of the faculty, staff and student population and to support provide academic, financial and cultural support for diverse students. One of the institution’s pillars is a commitment to global perspectives, including study abroad and bringing international students and faculty to campus.

Valerie Hayes, Stockton’s chief officer for Institutional Diversity and Equity, noted that diversity and inclusion is always a work in progress.

-continued from page 1 -

five years by over 16 percent in each category and recognizes that there is additional work to do as additional measures have been put in place to continue to broaden and deepen the applicant pools.

Stockton has increased the number of women faculty in the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) field by over 16 percent, as well as funding a STEM collaborative to enhance the pipeline to Stockton of talented STEM students, particularly students from traditionally underrepresented groups.

Over a five-year period, the diversity of full-time staff has increased by over 16 percent, with male and female-identified staff evenly split at 50 percent of the total. Stockton employed over 1,120 full-time faculty and staff in 2015-16, the most recent academic year for which figures are available.

“Under President Kesselman’s leadership, Stockton has strengthened its system of shared governance, which is perfect for diversity and inclusion work,” Hayes said. Diversity goals are embedded into the university’s overall budget process, including campus-wide diversity incentive grants, scholarships and a diversity-themed alumni fundraising program, she noted.

“Additionally, there are two Affirmative Action Plans that address the inclusion of women, racial/ethnic minorities as defined by the Federal government, veterans and persons with disabilities in the Stockton’s workforce, lending support to our commitment as an Equal Opportunity Institution,” Hayes said. “We have a Steering Committee comprised of faculty and staff who provide valuable assistance to the university in its ongoing efforts to ensure the campus is accessible. We also have a long-standing Diversity Committee comprised of faculty, staff, and students who are involved in and support campus diversity and inclusion efforts, which include, but are not limited to addressing race, sex, and gender identity issues that surface on campus.”

Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, said, “The HEED Award process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes questions relating to the recruitment and retention of students and employees — and best practices for both — continued leadership support for diversity, and other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion.

“We take a holistic approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a HEED Award recipient. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being accomplished every day across their campus,” said Pearlstein.

