

Stockton President Harvey Kesselman Receives Giving Back Award from INSIGHT into Diversity

National Recognition of College Presidents Who Give Back to Campuses, Communities

For Immediate Release ; with Kesselman photo

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Galloway, NJ - Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman today received the 2016 Giving Back Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education.

The Giving Back Award honors presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities who go above and beyond their everyday leadership duties and “give back” to their campuses and communities. Kesselman will be featured, along with 26 other recipients nationwide, in the April 2016 Leadership Support and Giving Back issue of the magazine.

Giving Back Award recipients were nominated by a colleague and selected by INSIGHT Into Diversity based on their outstanding demonstration of social responsibility, a commitment to charitable services, and involvement with students, faculty, and staff to serve underrepresented populations. Each honoree is recognized for his or her passion, dedication, and philanthropic achievements.

“I am humbled to be recognized by INSIGHT Into Diversity with the Giving Back Award,” said Kesselman. “Stockton is committed to diversity and inclusion, and I am proud to do my part by promoting scholarships, mentoring, academic programs, cultural events and global and community partnerships that build and support a diverse Stockton community. Reaching out to help others brings out the best in all of us, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve.”

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine selected Kesselman because of his strong record of giving back to the community and empowering others.

He served as director of Stockton’s Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF), a highly successful program with a strong tradition of educating, empowering, retaining and graduating

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students whose potential for college may not be reflected in their academic grades and whose economic background makes it extremely difficult for them to pursue a college education without financial aid.

He also served on a state task force and helped to author legislation that improved the NJ STARS scholarship program.

As the first person in his family ever to earn a college degree and a member of Stockton's inaugural class, Kesselman is well aware of the burdens students face in financing their educations. He and his wife, Lynne Kesselman, also a Stockton graduate, in 2015 committed \$25,000 to establish a new scholarship. He also helped inspire an anonymous donor to give \$250,000 to establish a new scholarship fund for instrumental music students.

Responding to the needs of a community facing job losses after the closing of four casinos, the Stockton Center for Community Engagement (SCCE), under the leadership of the president, initiated a campus-wide, ongoing food drive. In 2014, over 1,170 pounds of food was donated by faculty, staff and students. The SCCE also has served over 12,000 meals in the past three years to families in the Atlantic City area through its Campus Kitchen program.

Kesselman provided additional resources and empowered a university-wide committee to coordinate the N.J. Employee Charitable Campaign, which led to Stockton's most successful campaign in history. Over \$50,000 was raised in just three months, a 24 percent increase over the previous year's campaign.

Over 2,000 students participated this past year in Stockton's Office of Service-Learning, working an average of 20 hours per week with 160 community partners. This work is tied into over 100 courses, a program Kesselman initiated while he was provost. Due to Kesselman's leadership, students get credit for community work, which is tied into courses in the classroom. Additionally, Kesselman's support of Stockton's Annual Fall and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days of Service has helped to draw over 500 and nearly 1,000 participants, respectively, to the annual events.

The Giving Back Award nomination summarized his impact this way: "Dr. Kesselman - despite his executive position - inspires everyone with a genuine smile, and a handshake that is not just a meet-and-greet. He will never hesitate to go the extra mile to get things done, recognizing the many strengths in others that lead to a better place: a humane, civil environment of integrity, promise and hope."

"The Giving Back Award is being given to leaders of institutions of higher education who exemplify what it truly means to 'give back' to others," said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. "These presidents and chancellors are role models, and we honor their efforts to give back to everyone on their campuses and in their communities."

Award recipients include presidents and chancellors of both community colleges and baccalaureate-granting institutions.

For more information about the 2016 Giving Back Award and Insight Into Diversity magazine, visit insightintodiversity.com.

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