

Office of Public Relations
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Stockton to Host Region's Foremost Kwanzaa Celebration on Fri. Dec. 1

For Immediate Release

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GALLOWAY TWP. – The Unified Black Students Society of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will host the 30th Anniversary Kwanzaa Celebration on Friday December 1, 2006 from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. in the I-Wing Gymnasium (the “old” gym) on Stockton’s campus.

The event, the region’s largest celebration of the holiday, is actually held in advance of Kwanzaa. The holiday itself is celebrated from Dec. 26, 2006 through Jan. 1, 2007.

“Stockton’s Kwanzaa celebration has grown in popularity through the years, and we’re happy to be marking its 30th Anniversary, said Dr. Pat Reid-Merritt, Stockton faculty member and a director of the Africana Studies program. “We’re delighted to serve as the focal point for all members of the community to celebrate and in some cases learn about this occasion.”

The seven principles of Kwanzaa will be discussed. These principles can include:



Umoja (Unity)

To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.



Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.



Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.



Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to

profit from them together.



Nia (Purpose)

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.



Kuumba (Creativity)

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.



Imani (Faith)

To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Featured performers will include Molefi Asante and the Afro-One dance troupe, featuring Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt and Ms. Marjorie Barnes. The event will once again include performances of traditional African dance, poetry readings, music, an explanation of the history of Kwanzaa, food and much more. The cost of admission is \$5.00 for students and for group members of 10 individuals or more. The cost of admission for all other attendees is \$7.00 per person.

Tickets are on sale at the Stockton Performing Arts Center. For group reservations and more information, please call (609) 652-9000.

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