

Stockton Team Wins ‘Up to Us,’ National Competition to Engage Students on Federal Debt

Students to Meet with President Clinton, Chelsea Clinton in Fla. March 6-8

For Immediate Release ; with photos, captions on [flickr](#)

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Galloway Township, NJ - Students at Stockton University won the nationwide competition, “Up to Us,” and will travel to the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) this weekend in Florida to receive the top \$10,000 prize.

“Up to Us” pitted students from 44 colleges and universities to run the most thought-provoking, fun and effective campaign informing students about the long- and short-term impacts the federal debt will have on their lives - and getting them to take action.

“Among the pillars of a distinctive Stockton University education are community engagement and global perspectives, which prepare our students to succeed and to shape a better world,” said President Herman Saatkamp. “The five students on the Stockton ‘Up to Us’ team engaged the whole community and have now earned national recognition for their work. We could not be more proud of them.”

Team leader Angelo Bechara said the group worked hard to make a significant impact on the Stockton community. “The national debt crisis isn't the most appealing topic to college students, .” Bechara said the team plans to donate \$5,000 of the prize to the student body in the form of scholarships and a thank-you celebration, and split the remainder among the five core team members.

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The other members of the team are: Louis Chevere, of Galloway, a senior Economics major; Maryam Sarhan, of Somers Point, a sophomore majoring in Political Science with a pre-law concentration; Brad Ross, of Westfield, a senior majoring in Sustainability and Victoria Muraoka, of Millville, a freshman Psychology major.

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About Stockton University:

Stockton University, New Jersey's Distinctive Public University, offers an outstanding interdisciplinary approach to graduate and undergraduate education in liberal arts, professional studies, the health sciences and graduate and continuing studies.

On Feb. 18, 2015, Stockton celebrated its new designation as Stockton University, which highlights Stockton's academic achievements and growth as an institution of higher learning. Stockton is among the Top 10 public Regional Universities of the North, ranked at #9 by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2015 edition of "America's Best Colleges."

Stockton's main campus in Galloway, NJ is located on over 2,000 acres in the Pinelands National Reserve. Stockton will open the Island Campus on the oceanfront in Atlantic City, with limited summer sessions and more classes beginning in Fall 2015. The Stockton-Island Campus offers a world-class facility with 1.73 million-square-feet of space, including over 850 rooms, or over 1,600 residential spaces, available to students.

The university also has instructional sites in Ocean and Cape May counties, at the Carnegie Center in Atlantic City, and in Hammonton in western Atlantic County.

For more information on Stockton University, visit Stockton.edu.

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