

## Stockton Seeks Solutions to the College Opportunity, Affordability Crisis

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As a new book (Financing American Higher Education in the Era of Globalization) highlights that public higher education faces a crisis of confidence. For policy makers, educators and citizens, the big 21st Century issues are: who will have the opportunity to attend college; how will we finance the enterprise, and keep college affordable; and how colleges will be accountable for outcomes, and continuing trust in public investment. College is more important than ever before in a highly competitive global economy; but families and students are deeply troubled by the rising cost of college.

Richard Stockton will create a Center for Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance (HESIG) to find solutions to this challenge.

New Jersey stands out as a state that has led the nation in cuts to public colleges; where tuition is among the highest nationally because of state disinvestment; where the state provides no regular funds for facilities improvement; and rarely meets fully its labor contract obligations for salary and benefits. The result is that students pay roughly 70% of the cost of college, annually; and leave college with \$25-30,000 in debt. These trends must be reversed, if public colleges are to fulfill their missions of broad access to an affordable, quality education

HESIG aspires to be a leading New Jersey and national information resource on these critical issues. Stockton is in a unique position to serve as a model for change, with its dedication to opportunity, college completion, a distinctive interdis os;f coonicsH7 2.9(d16)8h.0 inlcsH8.5( in)8.5( in)3.ssu.0207tsyhf(m)1.38(y)i(h)-(s)g(h)2(cc76i)3mlf.01ona7.2(2(f(m).9(h

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