

Stockton Report Recommends Changes to Make Higher Education More Affordable, Effective

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

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Galloway, NJ - Stockton's Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance Project (HESIG) issued a report today that recommends these changes to make college more affordable and easier to complete, and to give students the skills they need to succeed in the workforce:

Broaden partnerships with high schools to teach subjects and skills needed to succeed in college and the workforce, and grant college-level credit for those courses; partner

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Today's report offers policy recommendations and a "tool kit" of best practices for New Jersey colleges and state policy makers to help narrow the "achievement gap" for college-bound students, and to add value to the college outcomes. It was underwritten in part by a grant from the ETS Center for Advocacy and Philanthropy, with support from the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, Stockton Polling Institute and New Jersey City University.

The 2014 initiative titled "Finding Solutions, Building Public Trust in an Era of Change," engaged citizens and executives on the role of higher education in helping to secure the long-term prosperity of the state. The HESIG project accomplished this by: convening two "executive roundtable" forums of state leaders from business, education, government, the media; and conducting a statewide survey of citizens to test the support for needed educational change to increase college value. The roundtables were held at Stockton College and New Jersey City University.

HESIG Senior Fellow Darryl Greer, who headed the project, said: "What's at stake is citizens' future opportunity to compete and prosper in New Jersey. This initiative goes to the heart of fulfilling the promise of the benefit of a college education."

"The report provides a strong foundation on which to build statewide awareness of what needs to be done by colleges, in partnership with others, to take action on the college success agenda," said Lenora Green, Senior Director of the ETS Center for Advocacy and Philanthropy.

New Jersey City University President Sue Henderson stated: "The project provides important guidance on what colleges and universities must do to achieve high value outcomes for all students. We will use the report to help the university expand partnership initiatives already underway to give students the skills needed to succeed in college and beyond."

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Higher Education and Strategic Information Governance (HESIG)

HESIG serves as an agent for constructive higher education policy change, by recommending strategic policy action aligned with a public agenda to serve the public good. Guiding principles include: enhancing college access, affordability, completion, productivity, accountability, and building partnerships to achieve these ends.

William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey, and is also the home of the Stockton Polling Institute. The Center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter and found on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College>. The Hughes Center blog can be found at blogs.stockton.edu/policyhues.

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