

# Stockton University hits jackpot with A.C. campus

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave



Eric Avedissian/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Stockton University opened its Atlantic City Campus in September and met with immediate success.

two, three or more courses there, so that the total course enrollment for Atlantic City was more than 2,300 seats this semester.

In fall 2018, Stockton had 8,603 undergraduate students and 1,018 graduate students for a total of 9,621 students.

A third of Stockton's undergraduates live on campus while two-thirds of the students commute. Other students take a shuttle service that runs every 45 minutes on a continuous loop between Galloway and Atlantic City campuses and transports 1,200 riders on Mondays through Thursdays.

"Students are not required to reside in Atlantic City to take courses here. The majority of our students, particularly our baccalaureate or undergraduate students, utilize our shuttle service that we offer between both campuses to take courses on both campuses," Jackson said.

The university's administration hoped 1,000 students would attend the Atlantic City campus, but 1,300 students attended during the fall semester with 2,300 course registrations.

"By all of our preliminary measures it was a great success," said Michelle McDonald, chief officer for academic programming, Atlantic City, and associate vice president of academic affairs. "We were hoping to come into Atlantic City to embrace our academic mission here to help solidify our community. ... We have so many different ongoing and special even

projects that have touched different organizations and fields in the city. The willingness and desire for people to partner with us and to use the facilities not just for academic events but for community events as well has been exactly what we wanted. It's an extension of our campus."

Stockton Atlantic City offers classes drawn from across the curriculum, from accounting and management, to the history of the 1960s and creative writing and poetry. Courses at the new campus include anthropology, business studies, communication studies, computer science and information systems, community leadership and community engagement, criminal justice, economics, education, health sciences, hospitality and tourism management studies, instructional technology, languages, psychology, social work and sociology.

Three full graduate programs were moved to the new campus: a master's degree in social work, a master's degree in education tracks and a doctorate degree program in organizational leadership.

"What we were trying to do was look for programs that could not only be in Atlantic City but would be better in Atlantic City," McDonald said.

The social work program was previously located at Stockton University's Carnegie Library in Atlantic City. She noted that program has a mandatory placement component where students are working out in the commu-

"It made a lot more sense. They embraced the faculty of that program from the beginning and being in an urban environment made sense," McDonald said. "The Atlantic City location allows them much more in the ability to grow."

The master's in education program allows students to move directly into teaching, which McDonald said "makes sense to have an urban location rather than having them come all the way out to Galloway."

Stockton sold the Seaview Hotel & Golf Club, where its Hospitality and Tourism Studies program was located. McDonald said the program moved to Atlantic City, where students can visit area locations and business leaders from the community can address the class.

"Hospitality in particular I think has been working hard to come up with ways to move more of their program to Atlantic City," McDonald said. "That just makes sense when you think about what kind of courses they offer and the ways they interact with hotels, with casinos, with small-business owners."

She said Stockton is also working with the city to expand its marine science and environmental studies programs. Atlantic City was awarded a state Innovation Grant in October to complete a study with the university about how and where these programs can be offered and expanded.

In 2016, New Jersey designated Stockton University as an Anchor Institution, recognizing the university's impact on Atlantic City and the region.

Part of that designation is to stem the out-migration of high school students in New Jersey who leave to attend out-of-state universities and colleges.

"We view Atlantic City as a growth area for us in addition to Galloway. However, we recognize our Galloway campus will max out just in terms of space capacity because we're located in the beautiful wetlands and pine-lands out there. Atlantic City is an exciting opportunity to grow within the future," Jackson said.

At a glance, the new campus is ultramodern, with a breezy courtyard and a connector bridge between residence halls. Landscaping includes plants native to the coast, while murals inside depict Atlantic City's heyday in the early 20th century.

The Stockton Residential Building, situated on the Boardwalk, holds 533 beds, and more than 95 percent were occupied as of the end of the fall semester. They expect to be at full capacity for the spring semester.

The 216,000-square-foot residential building has a 1,500-square-foot fitness center, two classrooms and a computer lab. The building also features three lounges, the campus center bookstore, a mailroom, a communal kitchen for group dining and cooking demonstrations, two outdoor courtyards, reserved garage parking, 24-hour security and an on-site police substation.

Each residential apartment includes a full kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, and up to two full bathrooms in each unit depending on the number of occupants, with rooms ranging from studios to up to six students.

Students on campus have been "happy with their experience," according to Jackson.

"In terms of our residential life experience here, it also was beyond our expectations at nearly 100 percent capacity in our residential areas. Students have really embraced living here in Atlantic City. They are taking advantage of many of the amenities that the city offers from utilizing the boardwalk to shopping in the local stores and patronizing the local restaurants within a short walking distance of the campus to a lot of the entertainment that's available here in Atlantic City," Jackson said.

The Academic Center, located at 3711 Atlantic Ave., features 14 classrooms, three computer labs, the 255-person Fannie Lou Hamer Event Room and a dining hall open seven days a week with a range of options, including Carluccio's Coal-Fired Pizza.

The university conducts periodic open houses for

Atlantic City — two in the fall and one in the spring — where prospective students and their parents can learn about educational opportunities.

"We've had a special booth for Stockton Atlantic City because we get so many questions about what we're offering in terms of classes, what it's like to live down there, what kinds of activities and internships are down there," McDonald said. "We also felt it was really important for students to get a taste of the campus itself. In addition to having a booth in Galloway, we offer regular tours at each open house of the Atlantic City site."

Besides its new Atlantic City campus, Stockton has a main campus in Galloway Township and instructional sites in Hammonton, Manahawkin and Woodbine.

The university opened the Academic Quad, buildings focusing on natural science and mathematics and health science.

The 58,210-square-foot Unified Science Center and the 37,720-square-foot Health Sciences Center "completely transformed the front of our campus at Galloway," McDonald said.

"Health sciences has been really our fastest-growing school in the last several years," McDonald said. "We just launched a doctorate in nursing program, we just launched an undergraduate program in exercise science in addition to the existing programs that we had in communication disorders and occupational therapy and physical therapy. There was a real need to get more specialized."

McDonald noted the Atlantic City community is welcome to Stockton University's Atlantic City campus, and many partnerships with local organizations have developed.

Community groups can use Stockton's facilities for meetings and events.

"It was a wonderful example of the variety of ways in which this campus allows us to embrace our mission of being an anchor institution and being a part of our Atlantic City and Atlantic County community," McDonald said.

## Horoscopes

**ARIES**  
You'll be somewhat confused and easily distracted. You're starting to feel a buildup of fatigue. Take advantage of your days off to get proper rest.

**TAURUS**  
Celebrating the new year isn't over yet! You'll attend several more parties. At work, a large number of demanding clients will overwhelm you.

**GEMINI**  
Time will be a rare commodity for you this week, and you won't be able to neglect the least of your responsibilities. Your boss could also ask you to work on your days off.

**CANCER**  
An unexpected trip will be organized at the last minute. You'll also be enthusiastic about a new learning experience to tackle. You'll take going back to school very seriously.

**LEO**  
You'll start the new year off with much enthusiasm. New challenges in both your personal and your professional life will arise as early as this week.

**VIRGO**  
Be vigilant, because a major disagreement with someone dear to you could shake up your day-to-day life. You'll need to be very careful; it'll feel like walking on eggshells at times.

**LIBRA**  
Cleaning time has come! The parties are over and it's time to tackle more serious business. You'll land the job of your dreams after an unexpected departure.

**SCORPIO**  
Now is a great time to take care of yourself and to learn some self-respect. You'll discover what you're passionate about and take the first step in that direction.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Whether you're on vacation or not you'll be spending the week at home with your family. Take advantage of the next few days to do some redecorating or to move your furniture around.

**CAPRICORN**  
Either silence will reign, or there will be a commotion! A happy medium just won't be possible. You won't stand being alone this week; expect to call a lot of friends.

**AQUARIUS**  
You'll have time to take care of returns and exchanges. There are fantastic sales on—you can afford to spoil yourself!

**PISCES**  
If you're on vacation, take advantage of this time to go out and do things with your family and friends. You'll feel the need to be active.

## Beach Break

Relax, life takes time...



1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18			19			20	21					
			22			23			24	25	26	
27	28	29				30				31		
32					33				34			
35					36				37			
38					39				40			
			41	42			43			44	45	46
47	48					49	50			51		
52						53				54		
55						56				57		

## Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Spin like a \_\_\_\_\_
  - Frog's kin
  - Curve
  - Bunyan's tool
  - Discounteous
  - Sweetheart
  - Black-eyed \_\_\_\_\_
  - Elderly
  - Uncovered
  - Fortify
  - Secondhand
  - Unleash
  - Type of snake
  - Cut
  - Dirty place
  - Large snake
  - Appeal
  - "\_\_\_\_\_ Not Unusual"
  - Side dish
  - Stubborn animal
  - Buck
  - Strict
  - Spoil
  - Pittsburgh player
  - Electrical unit
  - Man, e.g.
  - Linger
  - Froster
  - Highest card
  - Ponder
  - Mom's sister
  - Resting place
  - Ifs, \_\_\_\_\_, or buts
  - Subtraction term
  - Rent
  - Easy to peruse
  - Auto
  - Shade
  - Notion
  - Reserved
  - Common flower
  - Skyrocket
  - Chess piece
  - Practice boxing
  - Likewise
  - \_\_\_\_\_ ho!
  - Monogram part
  - Arise
  - Choose
  - Begins
  - Hymn finales
  - Approving votes
  - Send
  - Teen skin problem
  - Advanced, as money
  - Mineral spring
  - Cargo weight
  - Actor's hint

## Sudoku

#596

		3	5		7	1	4		2
		7			8	2		9	3
6		2			4				
				1		3			
1		3	8	9	6			7	
2	6			5	7			3	
3					1	9		2	7
			9						1
	1		2	3		9	5	4	

#597

			3			7			
		2		5	7	3	6		
5		3				8			
	5					2			9
1		9		4					
2						9	1		
						1	6		
4		6		9					
			2	4					8

HOW TO PLAY : Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once. Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.