



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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**QuickTakes!**

## **Darryl G. Greer, Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance (HESIG) Symposium**

May 9, 2016



A few years ago, nationally renowned higher education policy expert Dr. Darryl G. Greer pondered the following: *Where in New Jersey do state leaders go for answers about higher education policy? Who is collecting the data and coming up with strategies? Who is doing the in-depth thinking about higher education – a field that is based on thinking?* During the current season of government budget deliberation and presidential campaigning, New Jerseyans are exposed to talk about higher education – a plethora of speeches, sound bites, tweets, Facebook posts, letters, and testimonies. But “we have to do better than just talk without substance,” said Dr. Greer.

The former CEO of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, Dr. Greer concluded that no one – outside of the formal prescribed roles of the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education and New Jersey Presidents’ Council – was doing the above. So he developed a strategy to do it himself.

In January 2012, Dr. Darryl Gentry Greer joined Stockton University as a Senior Fellow, Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance (HESIG) and an affiliate of Stockton’s William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. HESIG’s mission is to be an agent for “constructive higher education policy change by recommending strategic policy action aligned with a public agenda to serve the public good.” The high-level policy think tank, responding to New Jersey’s higher education challenges, focuses on developing strategies to enhance: college accessibility, affordability, completion, productivity, accountability, as well as identifying strategic partnerships to accomplish improvements in all of the above areas. HESIG, through its advisory council, also benefits from the knowledge and experience of state and national higher education experts, including the leadership of the New Jersey associations representing the different higher education sectors – the New Jersey

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Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges.

HESIG is speaking directly to its mission by hosting a June 15 statewide symposium on student success and college outcomes. The event, titled “**Achieving College Outcomes: Linking Academic Success, Workforce Preparation and Civic Participation,**” benefits from: the 2014-2016 HESIG survey research; additional research done by the Hughes Center on civic education and employment trends; and the Student Success Collaborative, recently announced by NJ Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks.

“Secretary Hendricks has been a most encouraging partner with us and supporter of what HESIG is trying to accomplish,” said Dr. Greer.

The symposium will explore the linkage between classroom and practical education, and the importance of academic advising and career counseling to achieve positive college outcomes, including skills and abilities needed to succeed in college, the workplace, and for meaningful civic participation. Over 100 professionals from academic and career support services, equal opportunity programs, admissions, financial aid, faculty, deans, and provosts are registered to attend. Speakers include: Dr. Harvey Kesselman, president of Stockton University; Dr. David Payne, vice president and chief operating officer of Educational Testing Service; and Dr. Rochelle Hendricks, NJ Secretary of Higher Education.

“Colleges in New Jersey aspire to meet students’ expectations about how their college degrees will change their futures,” said Dr. Greer. “By gaining further understanding of student opinion on these issues, we can facilitate a more informed direction on change needed to help students succeed.”

[Free registration for the symposium is available here.](#)

As a proactive, results-oriented, higher education policy initiative, HESIG has a portfolio of impressive accomplishments. In addition to the upcoming June symposium, HESIG has conducted four surveys of citizens and students regarding college value and outcomes, one unprecedented at the state level, of nearly 5,000 students at 31 New Jersey institutions, supported by the Secretary of Higher Education. In an ongoing quest to connect with policy leaders, HESIG has conducted two focus groups of business and university executives. The general public outreach also has been extensive – 50 references in print/online media, television and radio, 12 opinion editorials, and four newsletters (each with a circulation of 1,200).

Dr. Greer is planning to move just as aggressively in 2016-2017. HESIG will publish the proceedings of the June symposium and conduct statewide surveys of academic advisors, career counselors and university presidents on expected skills and outcomes, best practices and needed change in policy and procedure to achieve student success. He is looking forward to proposing some “big ideas” for campus and state-level policy reform connecting

what HESIG has learned to a broader college access/success, and college value agenda, tied to the 2017 statewide election cycle.

Prior to beginning his New Jersey position at the NJASCU in 1986, Dr. Greer served as director of Government Relations for the College Board in Washington, DC, where he conducted a comprehensive program of public affairs at the state and federal levels. Dr. Greer earned his PhD and MA in political science at Stanford University in 1979, and 1972, respectively. His BA in political science was earned at Indiana University in 1970. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (now Stockton University) in 2000 and an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 1999 by William Paterson University.

The longtime resident of Hopewell, New Jersey, Dr. Greer said he is “grateful” for the opportunity to be able to give back to the higher education community in New Jersey. The leaders and citizens of the state also are grateful that Dr. Greer chose New Jersey in which to invest his expertise and energies, said Stockton President Harvey Kesselman. “We at Stockton need no poll to calculate the value of Darryl Greer’s civic engagement and knowledge of higher education. The outcomes can only be positive for the higher education community in New Jersey.”