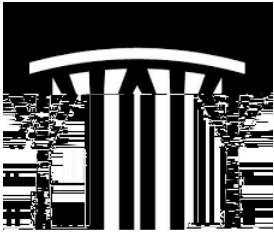


AtlantiCare CEO Tells Stockton Master's and Doctoral Graduates: 'Do Whatever Makes You Feel Alive'



"The deepest satisfaction of all is knowing that our short time on this earth has been well spent, and that it mattered," AtlantiCare CEO David Tilton told the first graduating class to receive Master's and Doctoral degrees from what is now Stockton University.

Click to watch graduation video:

<http://livestream.com/StocktonUniversity/S15-DMCommencement/videos/86458058>

Tilton, president and chief executive officer of AtlantiCare and a nationally recognized health care executive, was the keynote speaker at Stockton University's fourth Spring Master's and Doctoral commencement in the Sports Center on the main Galloway campus.

"Earning a graduate degree, as you know, requires a great deal of hard work, commitment and sacrifice," Tilton said. "You should be proud of what you have accomplished."

One of the highlights of Tilton's career is the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award which AtlantiCare earned in 2009. Only one organization is selected by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce each year for the highest national presidential award for quality and performance excellence. As a Baldrige Award recipient, AtlantiCare is a role model for organizational management and continuous quality improvement, and Tilton serves national health care leaders. He currently serves on the Board of the Health Research & Educational Trust, an affiliate of the American Hospital Association as well as on the Steering Committee of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton.

"It's your obligation to use your unique gifts to make life better and more interesting for the rest of us. Align with your purpose and you will have no regrets," Tilton said.

"Try new things, visit new places, meet new people – watch for that point you to your calling, follow the direction it leads you, put above practicality, and do whatever makes you feel alive."

Tilton was awarded Stockton's Distinguished Service Award by the Board of Trustees Chair Mady Deininger in recognition of his national, regional and civic leadership in supporting the development of AtlantiCare as well as for his "enduring commitment to health care in the communities of southern New Jersey."

Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Stockton's Acting President, presided over the first of three commencements being held this week in the Center on the university's main Galloway campus. A total of about 1,400 graduate degrees will be conferred, including 119 Doctoral and Master's degrees.

Dr. Susan Davenport, Interim Provost, presented the graduate degree candidates to Dr. Kesselman, and they received them from Dr. Lewis Dean of the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies. The ceremony dates to medieval times, when distinctive hooded gowns first distinguished between academic levels and also kept scholars warm in drafty universities.

Stockton awarded degrees in 14 graduate programs today in the university's fourth spring graduation ceremony for Master's graduates. A growing graduate program awarded its first degrees in 1999 with a Master's in Business Studies, and the first doctorate program approved in 2006.

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