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First Time on East Coast

INTERNATIONAL US OPEN BADMINTON TOURNAMENT HOSTED BY SUFFOLK COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S MICHAEL J. GRANT CAMPUS JULY 8-13.

A major international badminton tournament – a first of its kind on the East Coast of the United States -- will be hosted by Suffolk County Community College at its Michael J. Grant Campus' Health, Sports and Education Center field house in Brentwood, NY it was announced today by College President Shaun L. McKay. The College's Health, Sports and Education Center field house is the largest facility of its kind in Suffolk County.

McKay was joined at a morning news conference Suffolk County Community College Trustee Belinda Alvarez-Groneman; Dr. Tina Good, SUNY Trustee and President, Faculty Council of Community Colleges; the Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Legislators Sarah Anker, Monica R. Martinez, William J. Lindsay III, Tom Muratore, William Spencer, Kevin J. McCaffrey, John M. Kennedy and Robert Trotta; Michael J. Grant, Director, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce; representatives of the Badminton World Federation (BWF), and US Open Tournament Committee and tournament sponsor YONEX, organizers of the July 8-13 event and members of The Suffolk County Community College Cheer Team.

The 2014 YONEX US Open Championships, a BWF-sanctioned Grand Prix Gold Series Tournament, will award a total prize purse of \$120,000 and is one of only 11 Grand Prix Gold tournaments world-wide according to officials. A badminton tournament of this magnitude has never been held on the East Coast of the United States. The tournament was moved from Orange County, California where it has been staged for the past 18 years, according to the U.S. Open Tournament Committee. Tournament officials said the move to the East Coast and Suffolk County Community College was made to broaden the appeal of the sport. Tickets will cost between \$15 and \$30 for adults, depending on the event and \$10 to \$15 for school age children.

"We are delighted to host an international event of this magnitude," said Suffolk County Community College President Shaun McKay. "Not only will the event highlight our institution and showcase our facilities, but also demonstrates that while our College can transform the lives of students, it can also be an economic engine for Suffolk County." The tournament officials expect competitors from 30 countries to participate in the six-day event, and anticipate 300 athletes, coaches, trainers, and support staff, all of whom will fill hotel rooms, eat at local restaurants and tour Long Island while they are here.

The UPSKY Long Island Hotel at 110 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, is the official 2014 YONEX U.S. Open Grand Prix Gold Championships hotel.

Dr. Tina Good, SUNY Trustee and President, Faculty Council of Community Colleges stated, “Suffolk County Community College again demonstrates its commitment to serving its community while providing opportunities for people from around the world to come together and share their experiences. Congratulations to SCCC and to all the athletes. Welcome to New York!”

“Another first for Suffolk County Community College!” said **Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory**. “A major international badminton tournament for the first time ever on the East Coast! This is not a badminton game in your backyard at your family picnic. This U.S. Open Gold Series Championship is 300 professional players and support staff from 30 countries, the best players in the world. It will be an exciting event and will provide a significant boost to the local economy as well. I applaud the college for hosting this event.”

“Congratulations to Suffolk County Community College. It is an outstanding achievement to be chosen to host the U.S. Open Badminton Championship in July. An international sporting event will highlight the excellence of the College and its facilities. In addition, this 6 day event will serve as an economic gain for both Brentwood and Suffolk County. In securing this event, Suffolk County Community College aligns with my father’s vision that a college should engage both its students and its community. Brentwood welcomes the opportunity to participate in this special event,” said **Michael J. Grant, Director, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce**.

“This is an incredibly unique opportunity to showcase our community and all it has to offer,” said **New York State Senator Lee Zeldin**. “It speaks directly to all we have done in New York and especially on Long Island to attract new and varied opportunities to spur tourism and boost our local economy. I am confident that the success of the event and the welcoming of our community will bring organizers back year after year.”

New York State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, Chair of the New York State Senate Select Committee on Higher Education stated, “I am pleased that Suffolk County Community College will be in the international spotlight during this event. It will underscore what we’ve all known for many years. The College provides students with a great education, taught by a superb faculty in world-class facilities; facilities that are also contributing to the economic vitality of the college, the community and our region.”

“I am proud of Suffolk County Community College’s commitment to its students and our county. Bringing the 2014 YONEX US Open Badminton Championships to Suffolk County will enable the College to showcase its campus and its diverse student body to an international audience, while providing an economic boost to our local economy. I am delighted to take part in this announcement,” said **Suffolk County Ninth District Legislator Monica R. Martinez**

“As Chair of the Education Committee for the Suffolk County Legislature, I am thrilled to hear that the 2014 US Open Badminton Championships will be held at Suffolk County Community College’s Grant campus this summer,” said **Sixth District Legislator Sarah Anker**. “This major sporting event will not only provide the college with an opportunity to showcase their beautiful campus and state of the art facility, it will also serve as a tremendous economic boost to our region.”

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore, Fourth Legislative District, stated “This is another great example of our Community College thinking out of the box and securing this highly competitive world-wide event.” Legislator Muratore went on to say “I am pleased that the U.S. Open Tournament Committee has selected our great County and Community College to host the 2014 YONEX US Open Championships.”

“The 2014 US Open Badminton Championship will bring a welcomed boost to Suffolk County’s economy. I am very excited that the Badminton World Federation has chosen to partner with Suffolk County Community College and will use their wonderful facilities this summer. National sporting events, and the accompanying tourism that is generated, are vital to the success of our college and our county,” said **Legislator Bill Lindsay III of Holbrook**.

Suffolk County Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr. said, “This is a world class opportunity to showcase one of the finest event centers on the east coast. Special tribute Dr. McKay and his staff for securing an event of this magnitude and we look forward to hosting athletes from all over the world.”

“Badminton and Suffolk County Community College are a winning combination! I’m proud of the college and of my daughter for attending it. This is a great opportunity to showcase team Suffolk County, as well as providing a new opportunity to stimulate Suffolk’s economy. My family and I enjoy badminton so we’ll certainly be there to cheer,” said **Suffolk County Legislator Robert Trotta of Fort Salonga**.

“What an extraordinary occasion for the residents of Suffolk County to witness a nationally renowned Badminton Tournament right in our own backyard,” stated **Suffolk County Legislator William Spencer of Centerport**. “It also provides a wonderful opportunity for the County to showcase one of our gems, Suffolk Community College!”

Tournament Schedule:

Tuesday,	July 8, 2014	Qualify Rounds	9:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday	July 8, 2014	Main Draw MS	5:00pm - 10:00 pm
Wednesday	July 9, 2014	Main Draw	9:00am- 10:00pm
Thursday	July 10, 2014	Second Round	2:00pm – 10:00pm
Friday	July 11, 2014	Quarter-Finals	5:00pm - 10:00pm
Saturday	July 12, 2014	Semi-Finals	Start at 1:00pm
Sunday	July 13, 2014	Finals	Start at 1:00pm

McKay said the 57,800 square foot Michael J. Grant Campus Field House opened in 2000, can seat 4,800 spectators for exhibits and conventions and 2,700 spectators for sporting events, and is the largest facility of its kind in Suffolk County. The facility has a 200-meter, 6-lane AAU track, synthetic sports flooring, with the exception of a hardwood basketball court area; fitness center, dance/aerobics room, and a six-lane 250-meter pool with diving area and training room.

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