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**MEDIACONTACT:**

Mary M. Feder, Director of College Relations  
Suffolk County Community College  
(631) 451-4256  
[federm@sunysuffolk.edu](mailto:federm@sunysuffolk.edu)

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMOTES ITS  
STEM EDUCATION STRENGTHS**

*New York Senate Majority Leader Skelos and Industry Leaders Support College's Technical Initiative*

Brentwood, NY – Suffolk County Community College recently hosted fifty of Long Island's most influential business and industry leaders at an early morning session to update them about the College and its STEM initiatives. New York Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos; Resi Cooper - Acting Chief of Accelerate Long Island; Mark Grossman - Commissioner's Long Island Regional Rep. at the New York State Department of Labor; Anne Shybunko Moore – President of GSE Dynamics and Kevin Rooney – CEO of the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island, were among the participants who gathered at the College's Workforce Development and Technology Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood to hear the presentations showcasing the leading role the College plays in cultivating and advancing STEM education on Long Island.

"Community colleges like Suffolk are our partners in helping to turn our regional economy around," said Senate Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos. "The next generation of new ideas will be based in the STEM fields and other technologies. By working to create local programs that develop the necessary skills to compete within these fields, we are ensuring that Long Island will remain competitive, and also help to create and keep new high-paying jobs right here on the Island."

The National Science Foundation (NSF) scholarship program in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at Suffolk County Community College provides a unique, educationally enriched environment for students pursuing careers in science (biology, chemistry, physics, earth and space, geology, computer science, information technology) technology, engineering and mathematics fields. For over 10 years, Suffolk has increased STEM program retention, completion and transfer rates through National Science Foundation and New York State Education Department-funded programs.

STEM programmatic collaboration provides academic support services, advising/tutoring, career-related field trips and seminars, job shadowing and internships – real-world experiences for an increasing and diverse population of STEM scholars. Last year, the College received its latest NSF STEM grant--a total of \$600,000 for the years 2011-2016. The College was recently cited by the Empire State STEM Learning Network, which stated: "The alignment of state and county programs focused on increasing the inclusiveness of the STEM talent pipeline with

NSF's STEM Scholarship program exemplifies a systems approach to closing the gap in workforce needs. Suffolk's collaboration with Brookhaven National Lab and Stony Brook University further models the systems thinking critical to advancing STEM teaching and learning across New York State and beyond.

Today, Suffolk is recognized nationally for its STEM, CSTEP and STEP programs. The College is frequently invited to share its best practices with other institutions located across the country. In addition, its students have received prestigious and competitive research internships at multiple federal lab facilities supported by Department of Energy and NSF grants. These are important linkages for community college students, since most community colleges do not have physical resources to provide similar research opportunities on-site.

Suffolk's Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program was recently selected by the NSF to be highlighted in their national Division of Undergraduate Educational programs brochure as a result of the College's scope and magnitude of its strong programmatic activities.

The session concluded with a short video describing the College's proposed Renewable Energy and STEM Center--a state-of-the-art 25,000 square-foot facility that will allow Long Island's best and brightest minds to apply their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math towards the development of tomorrow's most promising renewable energy solutions and the hands-on training of students and workers in these new applications.

Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College, commented, "As a publicly supported community college, we see our mission as providing leadership in helping our region and its citizens achieve their educational and career goals. When it comes to workforce development and addressing the evolution of our area's workforce, we want to be at the top of everyone's list as the best resource for STEM-educated employees and interns."



**Photo Caption: (Left to Right) Scott Martella, Suffolk County Representative to Governor Andrew Cuomo; Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College; Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker, Chair of the Legislature's Higher Education and Information Technology Committee; John Lombardo, Suffolk County Community College's Associate Vice President for Economic Development.**

#### **About Suffolk County Community College**

Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) is the largest community college in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, enrolling approximately 26,000 students at its three campuses in Selden, Brentwood and Riverhead. SCCC offers the Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), and Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees, as well as a variety of certificate programs. Offering the lowest college tuition on Long Island, a highly respected Honors program, extensive extracurricular activities, championship athletic teams, and numerous transfer programs, SCCC is a first-choice college for Long Island students. Visit us online at [sunysuffolk.edu](http://sunysuffolk.edu).

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