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SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES GRANT TO EXPAND JOB TRAINING THROUGH LOCAL EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS

Selden, NY – Suffolk County Community College today announced that it was among 24 SUNY community colleges to receive funds for job expansion through workforce training and local employer partnerships. A consortium of SUNY community colleges has received \$14.6 million as part of a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and will use this funding to develop new classes and certification programs, bring new technology into labs, and expand the availability of internships and externships at local manufacturing businesses. The programs supported by these funds are designed to improve retention and achievement rates; accelerate progress and reduce time to credential completion; and provide state-of-the-art training that meets industry needs and prepares participants for entry or advancement in targeted career pathways.

The SUNY Training and Education in Advanced Manufacturing (TEAM) consortium will allow SUNY community colleges, including Suffolk County Community College, to establish permanent worker training programs for eligible New Yorkers in the field of advanced manufacturing. Once established, these training programs are expected to train at least 3,000 individuals statewide. This announcement is critical to closing the gap between the hundreds of available jobs in these industries and the documented lack of skilled local workers to fill those positions. SUNY colleges and over 100 businesses throughout the state will now have the resources to further develop job training programs that will meet the emerging needs of manufacturers across the state.

Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis said, "These federal grants are part of the Obama administration's ongoing commitment to strengthening American businesses by strengthening the American workforce. This strategic investment will enhance ties among community colleges, universities, employers and other local partners while ensuring that students have access to the skills and resources they need to compete for high-wage, high-skill careers."

The initiative complements President Obama's broader goals to help ensure that every American has at least one year of postsecondary education and the U.S. has the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. Through this initiative, each state plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico will receive at least \$2.5 million in dedicated funding for community college career training programs.

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer said, “This multi-million dollar federal investment is a game-changer that will connect unemployed New Yorkers with the state’s top employers that are ready to hire skilled workers in their own backyard. As I toured the state this year and met with business leaders across the state, company after company told me that they were ready to hire workers, but that there was a mismatch between the workers out there and the skills these companies needed. This grant speaks directly to that need, and it’s just what the doctor ordered to help more New Yorkers get back to work.”

“This federal support will help grow SUNY’s already powerful capacity to prepare students for careers in high-tech and advanced manufacturing fields where there is such a high demand in New York and across the country,” said SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher. “I applaud our congressional delegation for working so diligently in securing these funds and for their continued partnership and recognition of SUNY’s ability to drive economic development and job growth across New York.”

“This is a historic moment for New York and the SUNY system,” said Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College. “This grant will provide funds to aid job growth and job creation across the State. We launched our Mechatronics program in 2005, and since that time the College has trained hundreds of workers from different manufacturing companies across Long Island. With funds from this grant, we will be able to continue using our expertise and our training equipment, which are unparalleled in this region, to provide real solutions for a manufacturing industry that is grappling with critical hiring, training and retention challenges.”

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 affordable college tuition, 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.

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