

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES \$2 MILLION TITLE III GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Selden, NY – The U.S. Department of Education has announced that Suffolk County Community College has been awarded funding under the Title III, Part A, Strengthening Institutions Program. Under this year's program, more than \$18 million in grants were awarded to help 48 higher education institutions expand their capacity to serve low-income students. Suffolk County Community College was one of only four colleges or universities in New York State to receive funding. The College's five-year grant entitled, *Student Engagement through Informed Support (SEIS)*, will be in the amount of \$2 million for the period 10/01/2010 through 09/30/2015.

"The President has set a goal that America will once again lead the world in college completion by the end of this decade," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "These grants will support institutions serving low-income students as they work to increase college completion rates to help our country meet the President's goal."

The Title III program provides grants to eligible institutions of higher education that will enable them to improve their academic quality, institutional management, fiscal stability and self-sufficiency.

Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College stated, "The purpose of the Title III grant is to dramatically improve student success and engagement at the College. This dovetails with our mission to promote intellectual discovery and transform the lives of our students in a positive way. The funding from this grant will be used to promote new ways to increase academic achievement through enhanced support services and will impact every student and faculty member on all three campuses."

*SEIS* will engage and support students by electronically enhancing enrollment and admissions, reorganizing and improving faculty academic advising, instituting an academic early warning and intervention system, developing repositories of online learning materials for 20 of the College's high-enrollment gateway courses, and unifying online and in-person student support resources by developing a Virtual Learning Commons. Each component being proposed by the College is designed to boost student engagement and increase academic success, persistence, and retention. *SEIS* will transform the way students are enrolled, counseled and advised, and

supported. *SEIS* aims to increase the academic success, fall-to-spring persistence, and fall-to-fall retention of “at risk” students, resulting in a significant increase in overall student satisfaction.

**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 25,000 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. With the lowest college tuition on Long Island, a highly respected Honors program, extensive extracurricular activities, championship athletic teams, and numerous unified transfer programs, SCCC is a first-choice college for Long Island students. Visit us online at [www.sunysuffolk.edu](http://www.sunysuffolk.edu).

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