

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT WINS  
PRESTIGIOUS STATE-WIDE AWARD**

Selden, NY - Christina Simons of Center Moriches, a Photographic Imaging student at the Michael J. Grant Campus of Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood, is the recipient of a 2009 Vanguard Student Recognition Award. The Vanguard Award is presented to six students across the state who are enrolled in secondary or postsecondary Career and Technical Education Programs not traditional for their gender.

The Vanguard Award program is coordinated by the Net Project, Center for Women in Government and Civil Society at the University of Albany, and the New York State Education Department. This year, six winners were selected from a total of 75 nominees state-wide: two males and two females from secondary programs and one male and one female from post-secondary programs. The winners were honored at the Annual Nontraditional Careers Conference in Albany on March 26, 2009. The Award includes a certificate and public recognition for the students as role models for others considering nontraditional careers.

In her personal information form, Ms. Simons commented, "Photography and art allow me to reflect and create, while hopefully providing a platform for the exchange of ideas within a community. It never occurred to me that the field may be non-traditional for my gender; I only know that it suits my nature perfectly."

Her faculty advisor at SCCC, Associate Professor of Photographic Imaging, Allen Keener, said "Christina is a leader, who helps to create the dynamic in the classroom with her quest for excellence. Her art is mature, honest and complex. It challenges the viewer with the everyday experiences of being a woman." Professor Keener also shared that Christina, who is Vice President of the College's Photography Club, volunteered to tutor other students outside of class time and was instrumental in organizing the club's "Light the Night Walk" for the benefit of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Ms. Simons is a 4.0 student who plans on attending a four-year university to pursue her study of photography after graduation.



**PHOTO CAPTION: Christina Simons, a student enrolled in the Photographic Imaging program at Suffolk County Community College, wins state-wide Vanguard Recognition Award 2009. (Photo Courtesy of Dan Brenner).**

### **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 more than 23,000 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.) degree, 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 unified 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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