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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT WINS
PRESTIGIOUS STATEWIDE AWARD**

Selden, NY – Douglas Massey, a resident of Mattituck and a Nursing student at the Ammerman Campus of Suffolk County Community College in Selden, is the recipient of a 2010-2011 Vanguard Student Recognition Award. The Vanguard Award is presented to 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, on behalf of the New York State Education Department (NYSED). This year, 8 winners were selected from a total of 109 nominees statewide: 36 male and 52 females from secondary programs and 12 males and 9 female from post-secondary programs at institutions that had received Career and Technical Education Act (CTEA) grants from NYSED. The winners were honored at the Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators Statewide Leadership Conference in Albany, held March 24 -25th. The Award includes a certificate, a \$100 scholarship and public recognition for the students as role models for others considering nontraditional careers.

In his personal information form, Mr. Massey commented, "I never thought that I would be grateful that I got laid off from my job, but it is one of the best things that ever happened to me because it led me into nursing. I was meant to be a nurse. I have found that I love what I do and have a passion and commitment to my career like I have never known before."

His faculty advisor at the College, Myung-Hee Pak, Professor of Nursing, noted, "Doug is a goal-oriented, life-long learner who demonstrated his commitment to this field early on by becoming a certified nursing assistant in 2008 to gain experience, while at the same time successfully gaining acceptance into our highly competitive nursing program. His positive attitude and passion for his newfound career is reflected in his current job as a Nursing Assistant in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Stony Brook University Medical Center. He is an inspiration to his patients, peers and colleagues." Professor Pak also noted that at work, Mr. Massey has taken on the additional responsibility of equipment manager and was selected as a member of a hospital committee.

Mr. Massey is president of the nursing club and in the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. He has maintained a 3.7 GPA and balances his school responsibilities with his family life. He credits his wife with being his biggest supporter and he is always there for his three children.

When asked about nontraditional career choices, he said, “I believe the stigma that has been associated with being a ‘male’ nurse has gone by the wayside in the last few years. If a person is caring, has the intellectual capability to make it through nursing school, and can apply that knowledge on the job, then that is what really matters. If you are empathetic and not afraid to show it, then nursing is the right profession for you.”



PHOTO CAPTION: Douglas Massey, a Nursing student enrolled at Suffolk County Community College, is the recipient of a 2010-2011 New York State Vanguard Student Recognition Award.

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. 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 www.sunysuffolk.edu.

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