

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

Selden, NY – Bay Shore resident George T. Waszkiewicz, a nursing student at Suffolk County Community College's Ammerman Campus in Selden, is the recipient of a 2012-2013 Vanguard Student Recognition Award. The Vanguard Award is presented to select students in New York 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, five winners were selected from a total of 68 nominees statewide: three females from secondary programs and two males from postsecondary programs at institutions that had received Career and Technical Education Act (CTEA) grants from NYSED. The Award includes a certificate, a \$100 scholarship and public recognition for the students as role models for others considering nontraditional careers. Students are also filmed for a career video that is available at [www.vanguard.thenetproject.org](http://www.vanguard.thenetproject.org).

Mr. Waszkiewicz was accepted into the Nursing (RN) Program at the Ammerman Campus of Suffolk County Community College in June 2010. He has been involved with the Nursing Club since the fall 2010, serving first as a class representative, then as Secretary, Vice President and most recently as Co-President since May 2012. He holds a 3.8 GPA and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. In addition, he was nominated for and participated in the International Scholars Laureate Program's Nursing delegation to Australia in June 2011, studying rural midwifery and dynamics of universal healthcare on the aboriginal population.

He is currently employed full-time as a senior facilities mechanic for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and as a Patient Care Assistant at St Catherine of Siena Medical Center, Smithtown, NY. He has also been actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America for 25 years. He is an Eagle Scout and currently serves as a merit badge counselor in his church's Scout Troop. Mr. Waszkiewicz is also an assistant leader in his daughter's Daisy Scout troop.

Married to his wife Kami for six years, they have two children, Gabriella and George Martin. When asked how they manage it all, Mr. Waszkiewicz states, "My wife may not have taken nursing classes but she has gone through nursing school with me. The only difference is, my stress and exhaustion comes from class and studying, whereas hers comes from keeping up with two young children; I couldn't have made it through without her support."

Mr. Waszkiewicz was nominated by Assistant Professor of Nursing Doreen Coppa, who notes, "George has demonstrated his commitment to the nursing profession in many ways. As a freshman nursing student in 2010 he immediately embraced a leadership role in the Nursing Club, and now serves as the Co-President, where he has been instrumental in facilitating various community and college-wide activities."

When asked about nontraditional career choices, Mr. Waszkiewicz said, "When I decided to pursue an education and career in nursing, the last thing on my mind was that it was a non-traditional career. I just wanted my career to be one centered on service to those around me. The fact that nursing is a non-traditional career for a man only makes me want to work harder, learn more and be the type of nurse that I have admired in my clinicals, in the hospital where I work, and when it was my turn to be on the receiving end of quality nursing care."



**PHOTO CAPTION: George T. Waszkiewicz, a Nursing student enrolled at Suffolk County Community College, is the recipient of a 2012-2013 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 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 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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