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MEDIA CONTACT:

Mary M. Feder, Director of College Relations
Suffolk County Community College
(631) 451-4256
federm@sunysuffolk.edu

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE SUFFOLK CENTER ON
THE HOLOCAUST, DIVERSITY & HUMAN UNDERSTANDING CELEBRATE
SEVENTH ANNUAL EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES**

Selden, NY – On October 16th, Suffolk County Community College and the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity & Human Understanding will hold a ceremony celebrating the Seventh Annual *Embracing Our Differences-Long Island* project by recognizing sponsors and artists featured in Long Island's largest outdoor art exhibition. The ceremony begins at 4 p.m. and will be held in the Sagtikos Building on the College's Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood. The event is free and open to the general public.

The keynote speaker at the event will be Denis Okema and the welcome will be delivered by Claudine Uwamahoro. Mr. Okema is an advocate for human rights and peace. He was born in Uganda and is currently a graduate student in the United States. As a child he was abducted by the warlord Joseph Kony and forced to become a soldier in his army. Ms. Uwamahoro is a resident of Rwanda currently visiting the United States. She is a survivor of the genocide that took place in that nation in 1994. The program will include a performance by students from Brentwood High School.

Embracing Our Differences challenges us to build a society that respects human dignity and lives in peaceful coexistence. A juried panel of distinguished curators selected the 25 artworks for the exhibit. The jury included: Michaelann Tostanoski, Professor of Art at Suffolk County Community College, Patricia Snyder, Executive Director of the East End Arts Council, and John Diaz, Gallery Owner. The exhibit features artwork created by professional artists, adult artists, and entries from 10 schools on Long Island, including Syosset H.S., Plainview-Old Bethpage H.S., Cold Spring Harbor H.S., Half Hollow Hills East H.S., Samoset Middle School, Floral Park Memorial H.S., Minnesauke Elementary School, Henry Viscardi School, and Centereach H.S. Exhibition dates will be from October 14- 27 on the College's Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood and November 4-8 at the South Ocean Middle School, Patchogue.

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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