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MEDIA CONTACT:

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

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR RECOGNIZED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

Selden, NY - Suffolk County Community College Professor of Nursing, Lisa Quinones, was recently honored for her global and local efforts to educate students, health advocates and underserved populations in Latin America with an Inspired Comfort Award presented by Cherokee Uniforms. Professor Quinones was one of only seven recipients nationwide who receive this prestigious award.

The Inspired Comfort Award is granted by Cherokee Uniforms as a way to nationally recognize the unique skills, characteristics and work of nurses and other non-physician healthcare professionals who provide exceptional service, sacrifice and innovation while positively impacting others' lives. Since it was established in 2003, almost 9,900 healthcare professionals have been nominated across the various nursing and non-physician disciplines. A panel of Cherokee representatives and past Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award recipients evaluates nominations and grants the awards.

An advanced nurse practitioner, Professor Quinones spends vacations crossing borders and traveling the world to help others. As a volunteer brigade member for the nonprofit Hope for a Healthier Humanity (HHH), she has led medical missions to areas of Honduras, Panama and the Dominican Republic that require special and sustained efforts just to maintain life. She creates curriculum in order to effectively equip health-promotion advocates called *promotores* with such life-sustaining skills as first aid, how to deliver babies and manage minor health issues. Professor Quinones has taken groups of her nursing students on the trips, which require 14-hour days and enduring hardships not encountered here at home. In 2010, Quinones presented her research to the United Nations' World Youth Alliance and addressed a contingent from the Vatican in Honduras.

"Lisa was nominated for this award for her extraordinary ability and passionate commitment to mentor and teach both future nurses and health-promotion advocates in Latin America whose knowledge and communication directly impacts the health of impoverished, rural communities. No audience is too prestigious or too humble for her to share her knowledge, expertise and perspective with – whether it's a UN conference, officials from the Vatican, or those who help women in Latin America deliver their babies," says Wendell Mobley who directs Cherokee Uniforms' charitable and scholarship programs. "Lisa embodies the spirit of the Inspired Comfort Award."

“Lisa teaches by doing,” explains Dr. Frances LaFauci, Associate Dean of Nursing at SCCC and Quinones’ nominator. “The four walls of a classroom could never contain the endless compassion and the knowledge she has to offer to this world, and that’s proven by the work we do and the lives we touch under her leadership.”

Ultimately, Professor Quinones is motivated by her belief that healthcare must be accessible to all humans across the globe. “If I could change one thing about the world, it would be that healthcare is a human right, not a luxury,” says Quinones. “Famines continue all over the world, mothers and babies die every day due to lack of accessible care, and health education is available only to those who are aware of the resources available. There is a great nursing shortage here and abroad, but as nurses we must never forget our oath to care across all cultures and circumstances without prejudice.”

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.

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