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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES
NO TUITION INCREASE FOR 2012-2013**

Selden, NY – New York State's recently approved budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year held good news for community colleges. By raising the level of base State aid by \$150 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student, the budget provides an additional \$31.3 million for the State's two-year institutions. This is the first increase in community college base aid since the 2007-2008 fiscal year. As the largest community college in the State University (SUNY) system, the increase in base aid will mean approximately \$3.0 million in additional funding for Suffolk County Community College. This increase, combined with two years of concerted fiscal management, will enable the College to finalize its operating budget for the forthcoming year without requiring an increase to annual student tuition. Annual tuition at the College for full-time students enrolled for the 2012-2013 academic year will be \$3,990.

In making the announcement, College President Dr. Shaun L. McKay stated, “Our administration is sensitive to keeping focused on making sound fiscal choices. This approach, combined with the increase to community college base aid on the State level, has resulted in the College being able to hold the line on tuition for the forthcoming academic year.”

Enrollment at Suffolk County Community College has increased by 16% since 2006—growing from 21,859 students in 2006 to 25,310 in 2011. Even while enrollment has grown, during the period between 2008 and 2011, the College absorbed over \$10 million in cuts to base state aid. In order to maintain tuition affordability, Suffolk County Community College has proactively taken steps during the past two years to diversify its funding base, establish innovative partnerships, implement internal efficiencies that support cost avoidance, initiated cost savings strategies, and enhanced the use of technology.

To address reductions in State aid, the College successfully reopened the contracts with its faculty and mid-level administrators. Negotiations between the College and its Faculty Association resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement extending that contract from 2011 to 2015, inclusive of two years of wage freezes (zero percent increase in 2011-12 and 2012-13) and 2% increases in 2013-14 and 2014-15. This Agreement is saving the College \$1 million annually through 2013. In addition, the faculty extended an agreement to increase class size by two seats. This saved an additional \$1.5 million this past year alone. Exempt administrators are adhering to the same cost of living giveback through 2013 and the College's President has surrendered his cost of living adjustments for the term of his current contract year. The agreement with the

College's Guild of Administrative Officers extended that contract term for four years, covering 2011-2015 and includes three years of wage freezes (zero percent increase through 2014).

In addition to the givebacks in the salary category, the College decided to forego purchases. In formulating the proposed 2012-2013 operating budget, College administrators were directed to strategically implement a 2.5% budget reduction to every department and across the campuses. These reductions will not impact classroom instruction, academic programming or services provided to students. The College has also successfully secured major grants totaling over \$4 million annually.

Last year, the College's Board of Trustees proposed and the Suffolk County Legislature agreed to jointly work together to combine resources equal to almost \$1 million, which enabled the College to maintain its annual tuition below \$4,000. In addition, the Legislature included funding for a three-year commitment of support for capital projects and deferred maintenance efforts impacting College's buildings, grounds and infrastructure, with every County dollar being matched by the State.

This year, under SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher's leadership, the State's community college presidents actively advocated for a plan of systematic annual increases to fund State base aid. The State base aid plan originally requested that this rate be increased by \$205 annually over the next five years, beginning in 2012-2013. Governor Cuomo put forth an Executive Budget proposal that maintained the rate at its current level of \$2,122 per full-time equivalent student. "By agreeing to increase the rate by \$150 to \$2,272 per FTE, the State will begin to move toward meeting its 40% financial obligation, relieving some of the cost burden on our students, while simultaneously allowing the community colleges to implement measures that will further enhance student success," said William J. Lindsay, Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature.

"A vibrant, affordable community college is key to growing Suffolk County's economy and making sure our residents have necessary job skills. I will continue to work with SCCC leadership to hold the line on tuition and provide a first-rate education," said Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.

The College and its President were complimented by Suffolk County Legislator John Kennedy for their approach in building the institution's fund balance and protecting against its use as a source for balancing the College's operating budget. "We have all come to realize that balancing budgets using one-shots is not a sustainable approach," he stated.

"Affordable, high quality education and training are essential to our region and to preparing individuals for competitive careers that will pay the salaries necessary to live and raise a family on Long Island. With approximately 90% of all new high-wage jobs requiring a college degree or post-secondary training, successful institutions of higher education are vital to our state and local economies," stated Dafny Irizarry, Chairwoman of the College's Board of Trustees.

According to Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College, "With each annual effort to develop our operating budget, the College strives to strike a balance between our ability to deliver high quality educational experiences with our major sources of support: student tuition, County support and State aid. The College is sensitive to limiting tuition increases in order to keep higher education affordable for Suffolk County residents and we are extremely happy that our students will not see an increase in tuition for the coming year. We are grateful to all of our elected officials for their leadership in supporting the State's community colleges."

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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