

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2012

No. 34/10-11

MEDIA CONTACT:

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

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM
PRESIDENT OBAMA’S PROPOSED COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP FUNDS**

Selden, NY –Suffolk County Community College’s President Dr. Shaun L. McKay and Chairwoman of the College’s Board of Trustees Dafny J. Irizarry, were special guests of President Barack Obama when he announced that his FY 2013 budget included a proposed \$8 Billion to fund job training partnerships involving community colleges. The “Community College to Career” fund is intended to train 2 million workers, leading directly to employment.

“President Obama’s proposal will have a huge impact on Long Island, which is already seeing resurgence in manufacturing contracts. The skills training that will be covered by this proposal will be critical to the continuance of regional manufacturing growth, since the training will ensure that companies looking for employees will be able to find qualified applicants through their partnerships with our community college,” said Dr. McKay.

Currently, Suffolk County Community College offers educational and training programs in a wide variety of areas in order to meet the existing skills gaps found by Long Island’s businesses—especially in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) areas. “This funding proposal will help us appeal to a larger, more diverse pool of potential students, thereby increasing Long Island’s number of STEM workers as well as those who possess the entry-level job skills required by our region’s industries,” Dr. McKay added.

President Obama’s initiative targets those community colleges such as Suffolk which have demonstrated success in education and workforce training for students and returning workers. In addition, the College is a valued resource for the region’s adult learners, including returning Veterans, as they complete credentialed training or degree and certificate programs found at the community college level. Many adult learners have experience and often have degrees, but need to retrain in order to find a job in today’s economy. As proposed, President Obama’s initiative would allow Suffolk to provide existing programs and additional services, particularly for returning Veterans and adult learners.



Photo Caption: Suffolk County Community College Chairwoman, Dafny J. Irizarry (l), Hilda Solis, United States Secretary Of Labor (c), and Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College (r), were special guests when President Barack Obama announced his proposal for \$8 Billion to fund job training partnerships involving 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 unified transfer programs, SCCC is a first-choice college for Long Island students. Visit us online at sunysuffolk.edu.

###