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SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS WARD MELVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR A HANDS-ON TECHNOLOGY VISIT

Brentwood, NY – Twenty-six high school students from Three Village School District’s Ward Melville High School recently visited Suffolk County Community College’s Workforce Development and Technology Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood. The students are part of a unique high school program called the Mechatronics Academy. The goal of the Academy is to train high school students for manufacturing technology jobs, ensuring a pool of trained candidates will be available to replace baby boomers who are retiring from these jobs.

SCCC’s 18,000 square-foot Workforce and Technology Center opened last year and includes state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms utilized by the College’s new Manufacturing Technology associate’s degree (A.A.S.) program and the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) program. Training for welding and machining also takes place, as well as solar technology and energy efficiency training.

Led by their Technology teacher Steve Rogers, the visit provided the high school students with a first-hand perspective about the areas of machining, manufacturing assembly and welding. “Our kids are learning about career opportunities within the fields of manufacturing and technology,” said Mr. Rogers. “They get to see what a manufacturing environment really looks like and it provides them with a better understanding of an industry that’s in dire need of trained workers.” Ward Melville currently has 36 students within their Mechatronics Academy and its popularity is growing. “We started out with 14 kids, but now have a waiting list after only one year,” said Mr. Rogers.

An alliance between the College and Ward Melville High School was forged by John Lombardo, SCCC’s Director of Corporate Training. “These students now have a better sense of the kinds of technology-related opportunities that are available to them – and how these opportunities can relate to future employment right here on Long Island,” said Mr. Lombardo. While the Mechatronics Academy in the Three Village School District is the first of its kind, Mr. Lombardo stated that there will be another five school districts within Suffolk County that will be picking up the same model by June of 2011.

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 more than 25,000 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 the lowest college tuition on Long Island, 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.



SCCC instructor Sal Kazalski gives Ward Melville High School technology students a lesson in welding at the College's Workforce Development and Technology Center.

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