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SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WINS HIA'S 2009 INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SELDEN, NY – Suffolk County Community College announced today that it has been selected to receive the **Innovative Educational Institution Achievement Award** presented by the Hauppauge Industrial Association (HIA) as part of their Business Achievement Award competition.

“HIA's Annual Business Achievement Award competition focuses attention on the accomplishments of the local business community,” stated Terri Alessi–Miceli, President of the HIA. “It is a great opportunity for companies and educational facilities to gain the recognition they deserve for their growth, leadership and overall commitment to our region.”

Judging was based on the organization's commitment to the betterment of the Long Island community, positive employer/employee relations, revenue and profitability trends, and future vision. Candidates were also able to point out any recent outstanding accomplishments, technical innovations, market expansion or industry leadership in their bid for the award.

“It is a great honor for us to receive HIA's Innovative Educational Institution Award,” said George Gatta, Jr., Interim President, Suffolk County Community College. “We understand how important it is for the College to be able to respond to the needs of Long Island's business community. Our Manufacturing Technology and HVAC/R programs are just two outstanding examples of how the College is helping to train and, in many cases, re-train Long Islanders for rewarding careers right here in our region.”

Another factor influencing the College's award application is its launch of a new A.A.S. degree in Manufacturing Technology. Open for enrollment this semester, the program will help to meet the demands from area employers for a better trained workforce. This new degree will afford graduates opportunities for employment in industries that include precision metalwork, computer numeric control (CNC) machining, computer-aided design (CAD), cellular manufacturing, and quality control. Students will be prepared to support lean manufacturing environments from order entry to final assembly.

Since 2005, SCCC has been the recipient of over \$4M in competitive workforce grant funding received through the Community-Based Job Training Grants Program, implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration. The College allocated these funds toward development of an advanced manufacturing training curriculum on Long Island, and for manufacturing,

welding and machining training initiatives. A Consortium was created to accomplish these goals and, over a three-year period, they have successfully delivered employer-driven, advanced manufacturing training to 300 incumbent manufacturing workers and 100 new and displaced workers from 70 companies on Long Island.

The College has been able to leverage its grant funding with \$5.5M in State and County funding to establish a Workforce Development Technology Center at its Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood. This state-of-the-art building will house the new manufacturing, welding and machining programs, as well as the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program. This building has been designed to meet Gold LEED standards, a nationally recognized process for adhering to strict green energy standards.

Additional HIA winners & finalists this year include: **Winners** - Stalco Construction (Small Business Category), H2M (Large Business Category), Baiting Hollow Farm Vineyard (Rookie Category), Island Harvest (Not for Profit Category). **Finalists** - Long Island Fiber Exchange (LIFE) and Sequel Systems and Universal Security Systems (Small Business Category); Custom Computer Specialists, Liberty Moving and Storage and Suffolk County National Bank (Large Business Category), CWI Medical LLC and Eastern Energy Systems (Rookie Category), Long Island Cares (Not for Profit Category).

Winners and finalists of these firms in each of the four divisions will be the honorees at the HIA's September 15th Gala Luncheon where 350-400 business professionals and political dignitaries will also hear a keynote presentation officiated by Steve Levy, Suffolk County Executive. Winning companies will also have an opportunity to display their products and/or services and to speak about their company in the presence of elected officials and Long Island business leaders.

"Long Island firms face many obstacles," said Ann Marie Scheidt, Co-Chair of HIA's Business Development Committee. "But they've proven over and over that they have the talent and resourcefulness to overcome those obstacles and forge ahead. This is the HIA's way of saying 'thank you' to organizations that have successfully met competitive challenges, have had a significant community impact, and have made commitments to growth on Long Island."

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 23,000 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.

About the HIA

The Hauppauge Industrial Association, which has a membership of approximately 1,000 companies representing over 4,000 business professionals throughout LI, is a proactive 31-year-old business organization that focuses on the economic health and well-being of its member companies and that of the entire Long Island business community. HIA provides services and programs focusing on international trade, human resources, business development, government affairs, manufacturing, technology, environment, education, engineering, transportation, energy and much more. Contact the HIA at www.hia-li.org or (631)543-5355.