

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2010

No. 16/10-11

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mary Lou Araneo
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Suffolk County Community College
(631) 451-4845
araneom@sunysuffolk.edu

**LONG ISLAND'S SUNY INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH
REPRESENTATIVES FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Selden, NY– In August 2010, government ministers from Trinidad and Tobago visited Suffolk County Community College, where they had the opportunity to meet with over 70 elected officials, regional business and education leaders and senior SUNY officials to explore areas of possible collaboration. The delegation of Government Ministers was led by Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, and Senator Nan Ramgoolam, Minister of Public Administration. They were part of a team selected by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar seeking to advance the country's interests in a wide range of areas. The August visit was organized as a trade, economic development, research and education discussion, with potential to lead to bi-lateral agreements with Trinidad and Tobago.

In mid-October, Dr. Emmanuel Gonsalves, President of the College of Science, Technology, and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), scheduled a follow-up visit with SUNY's Long Island colleges and universities. This second meeting provided the institutions with an opportunity to discuss major areas of mutual interest, including research and development, workforce development, program development and faculty-to-faculty exchanges. The government of Trinidad and Tobago currently covers all of the costs for students from their country to pursue post-secondary education and may designate the SUNY institutions for its students seeking to earn their higher education degrees. At the conclusion of this second meeting, a working group was formed to advance toward the creation of formal memorandums of understanding establishing strategic alliances between COSTAATT and each SUNY institution.



In attendance at the October meeting were (l to r): George Gatta, Executive Vice President-Suffolk County Community College; Dr. Donald Astrab, President-Nassau Community College; Dr. W. Hubert Keen, President-Farmingdale State College; Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President-Suffolk County Community College; Dr. Emmanuel Gonsalves, President of the College of Science, Technology, and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, President-SUNY Old Westbury; Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, Chief Deputy to the President of Stony Brook University, and Dr. William Arens, Dean of International Academic Programs-Stony Brook University.



Dr. Shaun L. McKay (l) and Dr. Emmanuel Gonsalves, sign an agreement to collaborate on future projects between their respective institutions.

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 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. With 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 www.sunysuffolk.edu.

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