

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS LONG ISLAND REGIONAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ON EASTERN CAMPUS**

Riverhead, NY – On Tuesday, September 13, 2011, Suffolk County Community College hosted The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, co-chaired by Stuart Rabinowitz, President of Hofstra University, and Kevin Law, President of the Long Island Association, on its Eastern Campus in Riverhead. The purpose of this public meeting was to generate ideas about how to develop the strategic plan for long-term, sustainable, regional economic growth.

Each of the Development Council’s working groups presented a report on their work to date including strategies, projects, actions and policy changes that are needed to be accomplished in order to move the Long Island region closer to the vision of what the region should become in the next five years.

Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College, commented, “There is a strong link between education and economic development. Through education comes revitalization and empowerment, so by including higher education in these discussions, we increase the likelihood that our region will sustain the quality of life we want everyone to share.”

“The progress communicated at this meeting offered assurance that we are getting ever closer to our goal of creating a cohesive and forward-thinking Strategic Plan for economic development on Long Island,” said Stuart Rabinowitz, Co-Chair of the Long Island Regional Council and President of Hofstra University. “With the work of all of our members, volunteers and the upcoming input we will be welcoming through our public forums and other means, I expect us to see an exciting strategy come together over the next several weeks.”

“The Long Island Regional Council took a significant step forward at this meeting by approving its Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA) Endorsement Standard,” said Kevin Law, Co-Chair of the Long Island Regional Council and President of the Long Island Association. “This standard will serve as a guideline for the review and ranking of future applications and by adopting it early in our Strategic Planning process, our Regional Council has given candidates a framework by which to prepare successful applications.”

“The Innovation and Industry Clusters, Workforce and Education, Infrastructure, Nassau Hub committee and Natural Assets work groups have met frequently to focus on strategies from their unique perspectives,” said Andrea Lohneiss, Executive Director of the Long Island Regional Council. “Strategies give relevance to the development and prioritizing of projects within the region and the council voted to accept the scoring criteria that they will use to determine the regional council endorsements of projects submitted to state agencies from this point forward.”



**Photo Caption:** (left to right): Kevin Law, President of Long Island Association, Stuart Rabinowitz, President of Hofstra University, Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, President of SUNY Old Westbury, New York Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy and Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College gathered at Suffolk County Community College's Eastern Campus for the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council.

#### **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](http://sunysuffolk.edu).

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