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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S PROFESSOR WILLIAM  
O'CONNELL TO CONSULT FOR FEATURE LENGTH FILM  
WRITTEN BY RUSSELL BRAND**

Brentwood, NY –Suffolk County Community College's William "Bo" O'Connell, Professor of Communications and author of *Homeless in Paradise, Communicating with the Bohemian Venice Beach, CA Subculture*, will serve as a contributor and consultant on a feature length documentary film titled "*Russell Brand's Happiness Project*" about enlightenment, authored by British actor, writer and comedian Russell Brand and produced by Vanity Projects.

The film explores the modern western world where the realization of the self has become valued above all else. In a world where desire is everything and people are increasingly connected to the Internet or their iphones, the film asks the question, have we discarded genuine happiness for a life of illusion?

Russell Brand plays the role of a comedian and self-claimed narcissist on the brink of Hollywood fame. Speaking with the icons of our time, Mr. Brand will study the cultural components of our era - the boom of celebrity culture and reality TV, the birth of the Internet and social networking, the growth in advertising and public relations, and the development of the "Self Help" and "Happiness" industries.

On his journey, Mr. Brand will spend time in the U.S. Army with men and women who have chosen to act for the good of the group, and inside a maximum security prison to speak with people removed for anti-social behavior. He will also explore the homeless subculture.

Professor O'Connell is serving as a contributing consultant to the film at a crucial juncture involving homeless people associated with his book. He set up locations, scenes, and brought the homeless to Brand, educating him about the crisis of homelessness. The movie is expected to air during the summer of 2011.

"We are honored to have Professor O'Connell's expertise on this film," commented Hattie Bowering, a producer for the film. "Through his involvement, we have been given access to a secret world that frankly should not be secret. The homeless are an integral part of our culture, not just in Venice Beach, but across America. While their journey is tragic in so many ways, a real sense of happiness and belonging that eludes so many people exists in the homeless community."

In a separate project, Professor O'Connell is working on a made for television program called, *Voices in the Sand*, based on true life stories of the homeless, filmed on location in Venice Beach and New York City. Professor O'Connell lived as a homeless person throughout the month of January 2010 to complete the program.

Visit his Web site at [www.williamoconnell.net](http://www.williamoconnell.net) for more information.



**Photo Caption:** SCCC's Professor William O'Connell, author of *Homeless in Paradise, Communicating with the Bohemian Venice Beach, CA Subculture*, explains to British actor Russell Brand the numbers of homeless in this country. (Photo courtesy of Professor William O'Connell).

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

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