

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2009

No.17/08-09

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary M. Feder, Director of College Relations  
Suffolk County Community College (631) 451-4256  
federmm@sunysuffolk.edu

***SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR  
WILLIAM O'CONNELL PUBLISHES FIRST NOVEL***

Selden, NY - Suffolk County Community College, the largest community college in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, announced today that William O'Connell, Professor of Communications, has published his first novel, *Homeless In Paradise*, a true story of the homeless in Venice Beach.

*Homeless in Paradise*, takes the reader on a heart-wrenching and riveting journey into the underbelly of one of the nation's most scenic and popular tourist destinations, Venice Beach, California. Over the course of the novel, readers become intimately familiar with a colorful group of 10 homeless people who have arrived at their current circumstances in Venice Beach from all walks of life – including a deeply spiritual Native American man who is an astrophysicist with a Ph.D., known to all as Chief Keetoowah.

The novel leads the reader into a murder on the beach and the eye-opening cruelty of public ridicule that the homeless face each day. With eccentric, yet endearing, characters set against the harsh realities of homelessness, Professor O'Connell's novel delivers a rich and memorable narrative that touches upon themes of tolerance, perseverance and personal validation. It is an important book for every facet of education and it challenges the reader to rethink the overall perspective about homelessness. *Homeless in Paradise* (ISBN: 978-0-557-03501-4) is available at Lulu.com and will be available on Amazon and in book stores in the near future. For more information on *Homeless in Paradise*, visit [www.williamoconnell.net](http://www.williamoconnell.net).

Mr. O'Connell is currently a tenured Assistant Professor of Communication at Suffolk County Community College's Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood, New York. He was previously a reporter for The McGraw-Hill Companies. He is currently in the process of writing a second novel, "CJ and Friends", about racism in America as seen through a child's eyes.



**Photo Caption:** William O'Connell, Professor of Communications, has published his first novel, *Homeless In Paradise*.

**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.) degree, 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.

###