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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mary M. Feder, Director of College Relations  
Suffolk County Community College  
(631) 451-4256  
[federm@sunysuffolk.edu](mailto:federm@sunysuffolk.edu)

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS RECEIVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**

Selden, NY –Suffolk County Community College students will continue to receive summer research experiences at Stony Brook University with support from a grant recently renewed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Since 1993, the Biology Partnership in Research and Education Program, or BioPREP, has been encouraging students to transfer from two-year to four-year schools and prepare for careers in the biological sciences.

The program began with an NIH Bridges grant to Dr. David Bynum at Stony Brook University and continued with grants to Dr. Daniel Moloney, also at Stony Brook University, beginning in 2007 to the present. Since 1993, NIH has given over \$1.2 million to Stony Brook University for BioPREP and Suffolk County Community College has received an average of \$20,000 every year to support these students.

“The BioPREP program aims to increase the number and capabilities of underrepresented students in the biomedical and biological fields, to strengthen science curricula and provide student research opportunities intended to prepare minority students for research careers,” said Dr. Rosa Gambier, BioPREP Project Director at Suffolk County Community College and Academic Chair and Professor of Biology on the College’s Ammerman Campus in Selden.

In order to participate, students of color must have at least a 3.5 GPA, and must be a full-time student at Suffolk with a minimum of 24 credits including the completion of an introductory biology course. Students receive a \$2,400 stipend for completing the program. Some of the participating students will also have the opportunity to work through the summer on individual research projects mentored by Stony Brook research scientists. These students will receive an additional stipend and have the option of staying in the dorms for the duration of the program. According to Dr. Gambier, ten SCCC students will participate next summer.

Students participating in BioPREP become involved in a variety of research projects underway at Stony Brook University. They learn scientific techniques and develop individual research projects. Because they reside on campus over the duration of the program, they experience an authentic immersion in the culture of scientific inquiry, encouraging them to pursue careers in biomedical research.

Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College commented, “This important program encourages outstanding two-year college students to pursue careers in biomedical research. This will increase the numbers of underrepresented students in the research

pipeline and will help support the national goal of bringing a more diverse population into biomedical research careers.”

**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 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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