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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADDRESSES CRITICAL INDUSTRY
SKILLS GAPS THROUGH INNOVATIVE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH
METAL INDUSTRIES COMPANY**

Selden, NY –As part of an innovative solution to develop skills training for emerging industries, Suffolk County Community College has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government of Trinidad and Tobago and Metal Industries Company (MIC) to explore ways in which both parties can develop academic courses and training programs that will mutually benefit workforce development programs in each respective region. The MOU, signed on Friday, May 3, 2013, will capitalize on each organization’s strengths in specific areas of training.

Metal Industries Company is a major skills training provider and a government-sponsored limited liability corporation that operates 15 centers located throughout Trinidad and Tobago. As a result of experience in Trinidad and Tobago’s national petroleum and marine industries, MIC has developed a proficiency in composites manufacturing and training, as well as new energy development. The composites industry is emerging on Long Island and growing across the United States.

“This Memorandum of Agreement and the valuable relationships that we are forging will further distinguish the College as an innovator on a global basis,” said Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College. “By sharing our intellectual property, we have created a win-win situation for all involved. What’s more, the composites training will augment our existing menu of training programs and help local industries expand and keep jobs right here on Long Island.”

The MOU will allow instructors from Suffolk’s Workforce and Economic Development Office to receive composites and energy development training from MIC through shared curriculums, seminars, and applied practices. According to the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA), the composites industry is on a steady climb. At the close of 2012, the industry reached \$7.3 billion, up 9.5 percent from 2011.

GSE Dynamics, a Hauppauge-based engineering and manufacturing company engaged in the manufacture, assembly and testing of military mechanical and structural components and assemblies, entered into the composites market in 2007 and seen growth within business segments.

“Our need for skilled composite technicians is not a forecast, it is a current demand for the work currently in my company. It is imperative to implement a working curriculum that can expedite the process between training and job placement,” says Anne-Shybunko-Moore, President of GSE.

John Lombardo, Associate Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development at Suffolk County Community College, acknowledges this need for regional composites training. “Companies in our area have a backlog in excess of \$75-100 million of products that are reliant upon composite technology,” said Mr. Lombardo. “We are learning that there are not enough skilled workers to meet this need.”

Just as the Long Island region will benefit from the expertise offered by Metal Industries Company, Trinidad and Tobago stands to benefit from Suffolk County Community College’s respected training programs. Long recognized for its national leadership role in the development and implementation of innovative programs that focus on providing economic momentum by developing skilled workers who are ready to fill crucial skill gaps, Suffolk has demonstrated extensive proficiency in its ability train workers in the area of advanced manufacturing.

In fact, through grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor, and as part of a mission to provide Suffolk County residents with access to affordable higher education and workforce development opportunities, Suffolk developed a new curriculum, termed Mechatronics, that allows machinists to handle more complex projects, thus lifting their employment opportunities and salary levels. In addition, the program was developed to help employees improve their skills in math, writing, and English as a shop-floor language.

“We look forward to this partnership which will improve the delivery of technical vocational education and training throughout Trinidad and Tobago,” said David Lee, Chairman of Metal Industries Company.

Starting this June, a team of representatives from the highest level at MIC will arrive at Suffolk to begin designing and implementing a plan for comprehensive skills gap analysis and an in-depth exploration of the College’s model for workforce training for advanced manufacturing.



Photo Caption: David Lee, Chairman, Metal Industries Company; Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training; Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College; John Lombardo, Suffolk's Associate Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development

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.

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