

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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

**SUFFOLK COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION AWARDS  
DR. MARIANNE BYERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Selden, NY – The Suffolk Community College Foundation annually awards approximately 400 scholarships to assist students with paying for their education. A number of the scholarships are funded by donors in someone’s memory. One example is the Dr. Marianne Byers Memorial Scholarship, which this year awarded \$10,000 per student to two graduating Suffolk County Community College students.

Dr. Marianne Byers was a faculty member at SCCC from 1975 until her passing on December 7, 1992. She taught English at the College, including a Black Literature course she offered each spring. Dr. Byers was truly interested in helping all students pursue their academic goals. One of the last requests she made of her family was to make a significant contribution to SCCC students. With that in mind, her husband, Joseph Byers, established the Dr. Marianne Byers Memorial Scholarship in her memory. Recipients of the Dr. Marianne Byers Memorial Scholarship must graduate from SCCC’s Ammerman Campus with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 and use the funds to pursue a bachelor’s degree at a four-year college or university.

The 2010 recipients of this award are Bellport residents, Squaleen Atkinson and Zachary O’Brien. Ms. Atkinson will attend St. Joseph's College in the fall to study Computer Information Systems. After receiving her Bachelor’s Degree she hopes to obtain a Jurist Doctorate and become a criminal lawyer. Mr. O’Brien will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall, majoring in Marine Biology and competing on the sailing team. He also hopes to pursue a minor in environmental conservation. The Byers family remains involved in the selection process and enjoys meeting the recipients and wishing them continued academic success.

Mary Lou Araneo, Executive Director of the Suffolk Community College Foundation commented, “The support we receive from Joe Byers and all our donors, allows the Foundation to touch the lives of students in a meaningful way. Through their generous contributions, the Foundation can have a favorable impact upon our students’ ability to pursue their educational goals.”

For SCCC scholarship information, contact the College’s Office of Financial Aid at 631-451-4821.



**Photo Caption: Joe and Cheryl Byers are photographed with Squaleen Atkinson and Zachary O'Brien, the 2010 recipients of the Dr. Marianne Byers Memorial Scholarship.**

### **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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