

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2011

No. 85/10-11

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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

**ELIZABETH J. MILLINGS, DOCTORAL STUDENT AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
AND SCCC ALUMNA, WILL BE SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S  
2011 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**

Selden, NY – Elizabeth J. Millings, doctoral student at Columbia University and Suffolk County Community College alumna, will be SCCC's keynote speaker at the College's 2011 commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Field House of the Health, Sports and Education Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood.

Elizabeth Millings is a young biochemist with a passion for research and mentoring. During her undergraduate studies, Ms. Millings was selected to conduct research at Brookhaven National Laboratory, running laser spectroscopy analysis of combustion intermediates and developing radiotracers for PET neuroimaging. For her research, Ms. Millings received 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Chemistry at the national SERCh competition in 2008. In 2009, she was one of fifteen students nationwide selected as UNCF/Merck Undergraduate Fellows, where she developed unique organic compounds to fight schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease. Ms. Millings also analyzed the kinetics of key enzymes in tuberculosis with Dr. Peter Tonge at Stony Brook University.

As a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Theta Kappa, Elizabeth has been dedicated to academic excellence. She was a charter recipient of the NSF S-STEM II scholarship at Suffolk County Community College in 2007. In 2010, the Chemistry Department of Stony Brook University gave her the Outstanding Chemistry Student Award. Elizabeth is a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence and the Stony Brook Provost's Award for Academic Excellence.

Deeply committed to investing in the lives of others, Elizabeth worked as a chemistry tutor while attending Suffolk County Community College, as well as a mentor for the STEP high school science program. Currently, she mentors budding scientists in a New York City junior high school. She also leads a bi-weekly character-training program for young ladies, providing the motivation and skills they need to be successful.

Elizabeth received her Associate of Science degree *with highest distinction* from Suffolk County Community College in 2008. In 2010, she received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, *summa cum laude* with Honors from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Elizabeth is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in nutritional and metabolic biology at Columbia University.

Dr. Shaun L. McKay, Suffolk County Community College's President, stated. "It will be a great honor to welcome this year's keynote speaker, Elizabeth Millings, an alumna of our college, a

visionary in the area of scientific research and an inspiration to graduates seeking ways to build their own successful careers following their start at Suffolk. Along with the graduating class, I look forward to her insightful and motivating remarks,” Dr. McKay stated.



**Photo Caption: Elizabeth J. Millings, doctoral student at Columbia University (SCCC alumna-class of 2008) will be Suffolk County Community College’s 2011 commencement speaker.**

#### **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).

###