

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HAROLD FERNANDEZ, MD - CO-DIRECTOR OF THE STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY  
HEART INSTITUTE, AND DEPUTY-CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF CARDIOTHORACIC  
SURGERY TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 2013 COMMENCEMENT**

Selden, NY – Commencement exercises for Suffolk County Community College will take place on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Field House of the College's Health, Sports and Education Center on its Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood. Dr. Harold Fernandez, Professor of Surgery, Co-Director of the Stony Brook University Heart Institute, and Deputy-Chief of the division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, will deliver the keynote address during the ceremony.

Dr. Fernandez has received national publicity for his story as an undocumented immigrant who came to the United States at the age of 13 from Medellin, Colombia, eventually earning a degree in Molecular Biology from Princeton University. Following his Princeton years, he was accepted into the highly selective Harvard Medical School—MIT program in health sciences and technology. After graduation from Harvard, he completed his training in general surgery and cardiothoracic surgery at New York University (NYU) Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital.

Recently, Dr. Fernandez published a memoir "Undocumented: My Journey to Princeton and Harvard and Life as a Heart Surgeon," and has been featured in national media stories, including coverage in the *New York Times*. Dr. Fernandez participates in numerous volunteer activities to improve the health of people in his community and promote the rights of undocumented immigrants in America. Over the last ten years, Dr. Fernandez has been active in reaching out to immigrant youth to promote the importance of staying in school, and the message that with faith, hard work, passion for your dream and sacrifice everything is possible.

Dr. Shaun L. McKay, Suffolk County Community College's President, stated, "It is a tremendous honor to welcome Dr. Fernandez as this year's keynote speaker. I am certain his remarkable life, including his journey to America, his prominent career and numerous contributions to the community will serve to inspire our new graduates and their families."

**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).