

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT CHRIS PETROSINO  
HONORED AS NATIONAL FRANK LANZA MEMORIAL SCHOLAR**

Selden, NY – Suffolk County Community College student Chris Petrosino, a resident of Dix Hills, has been selected as one of only twenty students in the nation to receive a 2012 Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship. Awarded jointly by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship recognizes outstanding academic and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in registered nursing, respiratory care or emergency medical services associate degree programs.

The scholarship targets part-time, full-time and international students who have completed at least 50% of their course work toward earning an associate degree in one of several targeted healthcare-related fields. A panel of independent judges selects the recipients based on academic and leadership success, as well as community service. As a 2012 Lanza Scholar, Mr. Petrosino will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and a commemorative certificate.

"Funding provided for these scholarships is critical to helping community college students meet the high cost of completing these rigorous health-related programs," said Phi Theta Kappa's Executive Director, Dr. Rod A. Risley. "Healthcare is among the top majors for today's community college students and also for our Phi Theta Kappa members, so it's important that we help these students complete their degrees and become a vibrant part of the economy."

"At Suffolk County Community College, our commitment to excellence includes providing a challenging academic environment for our students," said Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College. "We are very proud of Mr. Petrosino and commend him for this academic distinction."

More than 57 percent of registered nurses in the United States begin their education with an associate degree, and that number rises to nearly 75 percent in rural areas. Community colleges also educate the majority of the nation's allied health professionals, including emergency medical services and respiratory care. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment demand in the nursing and allied health fields is expected to increase by close to 30% in the next decade, much faster than the rate of other professions.



**Photo Caption: Suffolk County Community College Student Chris Petrosino is honored as a 2012 Frank Lanza Memorial Scholar.**

**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).

**About the Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship**

The Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship is named in honor of Frank Lanza, founder of L-3 Communications, a global aerospace and defense company. Under his leadership as chairman and CEO, L-3 became the nation's sixth largest defense contractor – comprised of more than 73 operating units, among them Medical Education Technologies, Inc. (METI), now known as CAE Healthcare. In honor of Lanza's visionary business leadership and generous commitment to charitable causes, Lou Oberndorf, founder and retired Chairman of METI, initiated the endowment of the Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship, which is funded by L-3 Communications, CAE Healthcare, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

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