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SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S HONORS PROGRAM ORGANIZES ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Selden, NY – Students from the Suffolk County Community College Honors Program recently organized a visit to Columbia University to discuss college education in twenty-first century America. This roundtable discussion offered Honors Program students from Suffolk the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with Columbia University Professor Andrew Delbanco regarding his recent book, *College: What it Was, Is, and Should Be*.

Dr. Delbanco is Columbia University's Mendelson Family Professor of American Studies and the Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities. In 2001, he was named by *Time Magazine* as "America's Best Social Critic" and in 2003, he was chosen as New York State Scholar of the Year by the New York Council for the Humanities. President Barack Obama presented Dr. Delbanco with the National Humanities Medal in 2011 "for his writings on higher education and the place classic authors hold in history and contemporary life."

In an interview with PBS News Hour published on May 22, 2012, Dr. Delbanco said, "The glory of the American education system is its breadth and its diversity. And, we have an enormous number and kinds of institutions. The community colleges are every bit as important for the future of our country as the Harvards and the Yales."

SCCC Honors Program students engaged in a classic Socratic discussion with Professor Delbanco and addressed topics including why self-doubt and self-criticism are among the virtues of a genuinely educated person, as well as the core mission of higher education in America. The students spent the remainder of their day studying the history and architecture of Columbia University.

The Honors program at Suffolk County Community College offers interdisciplinary learning opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students. It is grounded in the traditions of the liberal arts and stresses the connections among various disciplines and the tools of artistic and intellectual creativity.



Photo Caption: Suffolk County Community College Honors Program students on the steps of Low Library at Columbia University, where they organized a roundtable discussion on the topic of college education in twenty-first century America.

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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