

Suffolk County Community College

College Brief

NO. 58 December 31, 2020
TO: The College Community
FROM: Louis J. Petrizzo, Interim President
SUBJECT: Good Bye and Good Riddance 2020

Every December our screens are filled with “End of Year” feature stories which try to take stock of the past 12 months. This year that seems to be quite an ambitious challenge. I’m not watching those shows this year. The reality was bad enough. I don’t need to be reminded. The past year was filled with unprecedented challenges to each of us and to this College but it has also come with an unbridled perseverance and determination by each of you to overcome those challenges.

We have yet to understand all the ramifications of this pandemic. We mourn and grieve for our colleagues and their loved ones who did not survive the virus’ terrible toll. We do know that we have lost almost a year of our lives and the lives and the love of our families, friends, and colleagues. We know our students have lost what should have been a wonderful year of new friendships and shared experiences and we are left to wonder if we have seen the worst of what the Covid-19 has to offer.

Science has given us highly effective and apparently very safe vaccines and as a College in our communities, we are doing our part to see that those discoveries are made as widely available as possible to those who will accept them. We should take some comfort in knowing that we are doing what we can to make our communities better, safer, and healthier places.

Thanks to these vaccines, there is a finish line in sight although there will be much work to do in getting everyone across that line. The experts tell us that the winter will be difficult but one thing is clear, the outlook that we have on December 31 is much better that the one that we had on March 19.

While there have been many personal losses and there is still some uncertainty in our future, we have also gained a deepening commitment to each other and a realization that we are not alone in the struggle to persevere against this global threat.

We have all shared in a sacrifice for the greater good of our colleagues and students. We should take great solace in knowing that we are a caring community.

We have been asked to work and interact in ways new and different from the way we were trained and were accustomed to. We have been changed in ways we probably do not yet fully understand. But we have come to this point together, with a clear sense of our purpose in life, and we will always know that among our group and in this place, we have an unspoken bond that only comes from a shared and painful experience.

All of us in the administration of this College are grateful for your dedication to our cause and for your support of each other and our students. Without you, our ability to sustain this College through this pandemic would not have been possible.

As the year comes to a close, we thank you and we wish a very happy, healthy, and joyful New Year to you and to your loved ones. May 2021 bring you peace, joy, and love.