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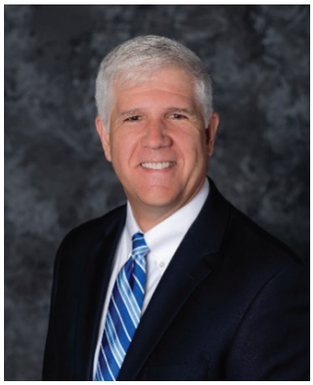
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From the College President



Edward T. Bonahue, Ph.D.
President
Suffolk County Community College

The mission statement of Suffolk County Community College affirms that we are a student-centered college community, committed to offering outstanding educational programs and services. The meaning of that word, community, is demonstrated here tonight by all of you. We come together from education, from business, from government, from community-based organizations, united in service and stewardship, for the benefit of our students, and the advancement of the future of Suffolk County.

Tonight, we are honored to join in collaboration with our regional manufacturing partners like Curtiss-Wright, Tooling U-SME, Oerlikon, Precipart, Schivo Medical, Westhampton Architectural Glass, Designatronics, Gene Haas Foundation, Thuro, Allendale Machinery Systems, Ignite Long Island, BuildSubmrines.com, and Maritime Industrial Base (U.S. Navy), in order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC).

Perhaps the most exciting part of the evening will come when we make a few announcements public for the first time—including an overview of our plans for expanding the AMTC program. With sincere thanks, we convey our institutional gratitude for the leadership provided by the Honorable Andrew Garbarino, United States Congressman, who has secured community project funding to support our expansion. This support will provide a major win for Long Island's economy, as the funding will further develop the pipeline of skilled welders and CNC machining operators able to support Long Island's vital defense manufacturing industry.

SUNY Suffolk is committed to preparing students with the skills and credentials they need to succeed. Our faculty and staff guide our students toward career success by building their confidence and competence. Your kindness and generosity, evidenced through your contributions to tonight's event, support the college's strategic priority of creating clear, affordable pathways to career and educational advancement opportunities available across Long Island.

Thanks to support from our friends, alumni and donors, the college is an institution where students can progress toward fulfilling their dreams, and those who are willing to put in the work can attain their individual goals. That is a combination truly worthy of support from all of us. With deep appreciation for your generosity, I am pleased to say that the future for Suffolk students remains both bright and promising.

Enjoy the evening!

20th

Suffolk

COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Advanced Manufacturing Training Center

ANNIVERSARY

From the Chair of the College's Board of Trustees



Shirley E. Coverdale
Chair
Suffolk County Community College
Board of Trustees

The 2026 Salute to Excellence Gala provides us with an opportunity to salute 20 years of setting the pace within the college's advanced manufacturing program. Thanks to support from our community partners, local and regional employers, elected officials, union leaders and colleagues in education, the college continues to grow as a influential and dominant resource for education and training for the residents of Suffolk County.

The college community is dedicated to advancing student success. On behalf of our Board, I extend sincere appreciation to each of you for all of the ways in which you support this work. By coming together in celebration this evening, we gain an enhanced understanding of our shared priorities and how collaboration strengthens partnerships, leading to results that deliver a powerful impact.

From the Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors



Edward Boughal
Chair
Suffolk Community College Foundation
Board of Directors

For the past few years, the Suffolk Community College Foundation has been raising critical philanthropic support through its Education Without Limits campaign, with the goal of helping Suffolk's students overcome obstacles that inhibit their ability to complete their education. By providing financial assistance through scholarships, hardship funds, academic program enhancements, and naming opportunities, the Foundation staff and the Foundation Board of Directors—many of whom are Suffolk alumni—remain deeply committed to expanding access to higher education.

The need is real. Our Foundation had over 2,000 applications for scholarship assistance last year. Those applicants were both new and continuing students. With over 250 named scholarships, the Foundation distributes over $550,000 in scholarship awards annually. Proceeds from this evening's Salute to Excellence Gala will enable the Foundation to continue to meet student needs. These funds will provide life-changing support—helping students remain enrolled, complete their studies, and pursue their academic and professional goals.

Such impact is made possible only through the generosity of partners who recognize the vital role of public higher education and who are committed to investing in the future of community college students.

On behalf of the Suffolk Community College Foundation's Board of Directors, we extend our sincere gratitude for your continued support. Together, we will continue to strengthen Suffolk County Community College and expand opportunities for the students it serves.

From Our Vice President for Institutional Advancement



Mary Lou Araneo
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Suffolk County Community College

Welcome to the first Salute to Excellence Gala to be hosted by the Suffolk Community College Foundation since the pandemic! This event has always provided us with a celebratory opportunity to feature our partners and the programs available at the college. As SUNY's largest community college, we have many programs to feature and numerous student success stories to share.

This year, we chose to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the college's advanced manufacturing program. The college continues to expand the number of short-term, career-focused training programs in multiple high-demand fields. Tonight you will hear more about our plans for our Advanced Manufacturing Training Center—including expansion of the program on our Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood, and the addition of welding and CNC machine training on our Eastern Campus in Riverhead.

It continues to be an exciting and vibrant time here at Suffolk County Community College. As we begin tonight's Gala, I am delighted to have this opportunity to express my appreciation for the efforts of the professional staff of the Foundation along with our colleagues in workforce development, who were instrumental in generating support for the 2026 Salute to Excellence Gala. I also extend our thanks to everyone joining us here tonight.

Collectively, your generosity makes our continued progress possible. Thank you, most sincerely, for your willingness to count the Suffolk Community College Foundation among the organizations you consider to be worthy of your financial support.

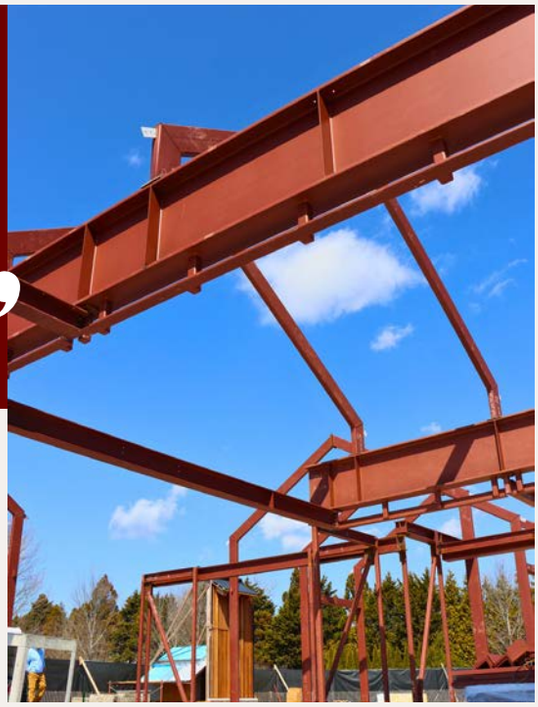
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on the 20th Anniversary of its
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Long Island is home to approximately 3,000 manufacturing companies, employing over 70,000 people.
About two-thirds of these manufacturers are in Suffolk County.
For the past 20 years, our Advanced Manufacturing Training Center has been responsible for placing thousands of Long Islanders into growth-oriented careers and helping area manufacturers – both large and small – expand and grow.

Join us in celebrating this vital sector of our economy...
and learning about the exciting next steps in the evolution of our training program.

ANDREW R. GARBARINO
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March 12, 2026

Suffolk County Community College

533 College Road

Seldon, NY 11784

Friends of SCCC,

Congratulations to Suffolk County Community College on the evening of the SCCC Salute to Excellence Gala.

As you celebrate the 20th Anniversary of SCCC's Manufacturing Program, honor Long Island's manufacturing leaders, and unveil your expansion plans, we recognize the vital role advanced manufacturing plays in strengthening our regional economy and national competitiveness.

I am especially proud to have supported the SCCC Advanced Manufacturing Training Program, which secured $1.5 million in federal funding through the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations bill. This full investment will enhance training capacity, modernize facilities, and expand workforce opportunities for students entering high-demand manufacturing careers.

SCCC continues to lead the way in building a skilled workforce that supports innovation, economic growth, and opportunity across Long Island. Congratulations on this important milestone, and best wishes for a successful evening.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

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March 12, 2026

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the residents of New York's First Congressional District, I am proud to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at Suffolk County Community College on its 20th anniversary of service to our community.

For two decades, this Center has stood as a symbol of opportunity, innovation, and determination for Long Island. The work being done here extends far beyond technical training. It is about creating pathways to good careers, strengthening our workforce, and helping hardworking men and women build stronger futures close to home. This Center reflects the spirit of Long Island: practical, resilient, and focused on results that matter to our families and communities.

As a Member of Congress, I am committed to helping build a bright future for manufacturing on Long Island. Supporting our training programs, our workers, and our local businesses is essential to keeping Long Island competitive and ensuring our region continues to grow, innovate, and lead in the industries that drive our economy forward.

The success of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center over the past 20 years is a testament to the power of partnership and community investment. Your work helps strengthen our economy while preserving the opportunities that allow the next generation of Long Islanders to live, work, and build their lives here.

Congratulations to everyone who has been part of this incredible achievement. Thank you for your leadership, your service, and your continued commitment to Long Island's future.

I wish you all a meaningful and successful celebration of this important milestone.

Sincerely,

Nick LaLota
Member of Congress

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Edward P. Romaine
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the residents of Suffolk County, I am proud to extend my warmest congratulations to Suffolk County Community College as it hosts the 2026 Salute to Excellence Gala on March 12th.

This year's celebration is especially meaningful as we recognize the strength and innovation of our advanced manufacturing industry and commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the College's Advanced Manufacturing Program. For two decades, this remarkable program has helped shape a highly skilled workforce, opened doors of opportunity for students, and strengthened the economic foundation of our region.

Advanced manufacturing is vital to Suffolk County's continued growth and competitiveness. From aerospace and defense to precision machining and emerging technologies, this sector represents the future of high-quality careers and local industry. Through forward-thinking partnerships, state-of-the-art training, and a steadfast commitment to student success, Suffolk County Community College has ensured that our residents are prepared to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving economy.

The College's leadership, faculty, industry partners, and graduates deserve recognition for their dedication and vision. Their collective efforts have not only transformed lives but have also reinforced Suffolk County's reputation as a hub of innovation and excellence.

Congratulations to this year's honorees and to all who have contributed to twenty years of achievement in advanced manufacturing education. I commend Suffolk County Community College for its continued commitment to empowering students, supporting industry, and strengthening our community.

Best wishes for a wonderful and memorable Salute to Excellence Gala.



Sincerely

Edward P. Romaine

Edward P. Romaine
Suffolk County Executive

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SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

ANTHONY A. PICCIRILLO, PRESIDING OFFICER

Dear Friends,

As Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature I am proud to extend my sincere congratulations to everyone involved in the Salute to Excellence Gala on March 12, 2026, celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Suffolk County Community College's Advanced Manufacturing Program.

This milestone represents two decades of sustained commitment, strategic collaboration, and forward-thinking leadership among education, government, and industry. During my time as a County official, Suffolk Legislature has been an ongoing supporter and partner in the growth of the College's Advanced Manufacturing Program. By advancing critical Capital Projects and supporting grant applications, we have worked collaboratively to ensure that the infrastructure and resources necessary for the success of this program are in place.

I am proud to have partnered with Suffolk Community College in building a program that has become a model for workforce development. The Advanced Manufacturing Program plays a vital role in preparing a highly skilled workforce, strengthening Suffolk County's regional economy, and positioning our community as a leader in innovation. Its success is a direct result of the dedication of faculty, students, alumni, and industry partners who continue to elevate standards and expand opportunities.

Advanced manufacturing remains a cornerstone of economic growth and long-term competitiveness. Public investments in education and training are essential to meeting the evolving demands of modern industry. The Suffolk County Legislature remains committed to initiatives that create meaningful career pathways for our residents, support local employers, and drive sustainable economic development across our region.

I also support the ongoing expansion efforts that will further enhance the program's reach and impact. These continued investments will create new opportunities for students and help to ensure that Suffolk County remains at the forefront of manufacturing for years to come.

On behalf of the entire Suffolk County Legislature, I congratulate Suffolk County Community College on this achievement and look forward to continuing our partnership in support of innovation and workforce development for the benefit of all residents of Suffolk County.

Truly yours,

Anthony A. Piccirillo
Presiding Officer

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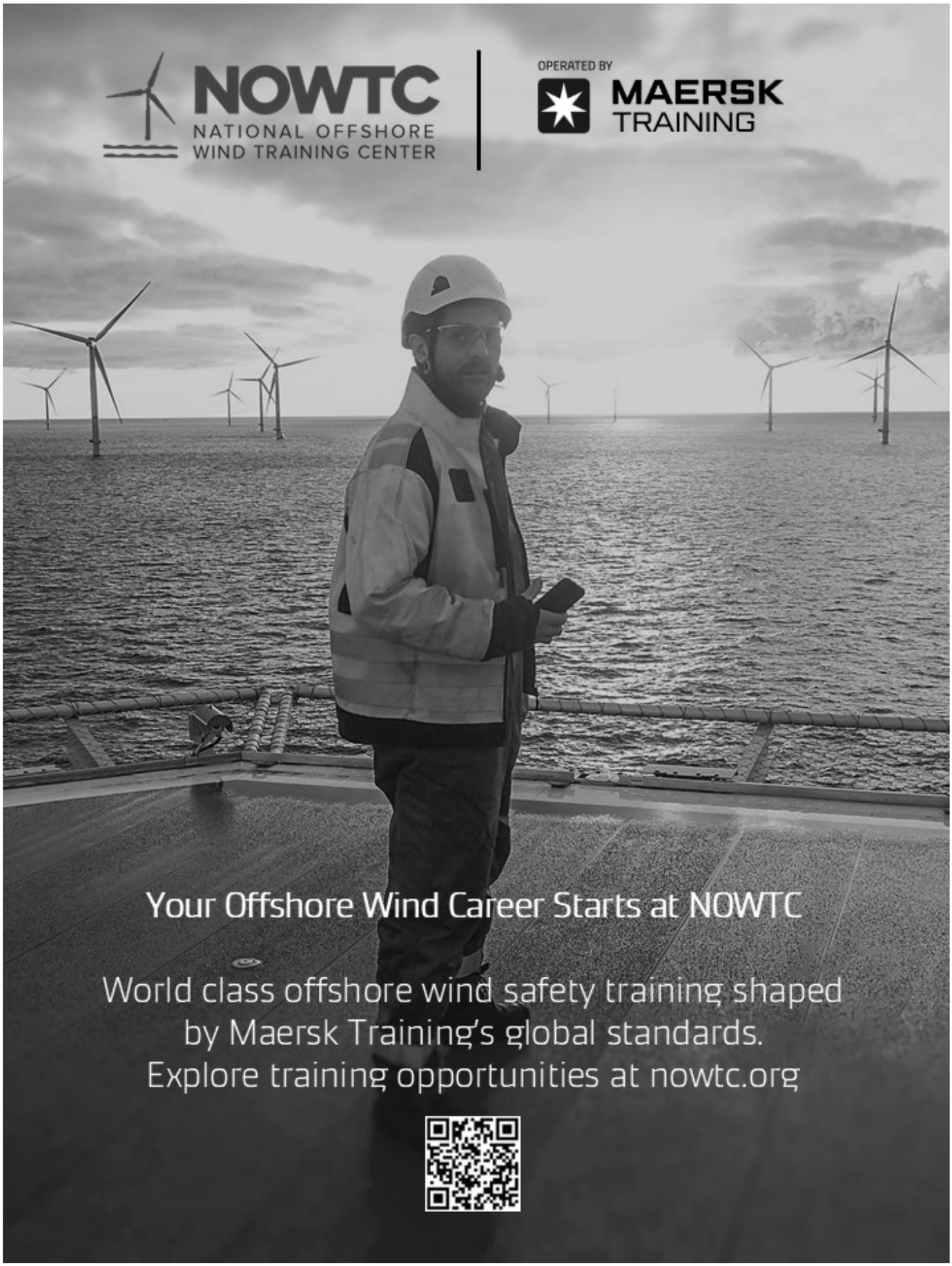
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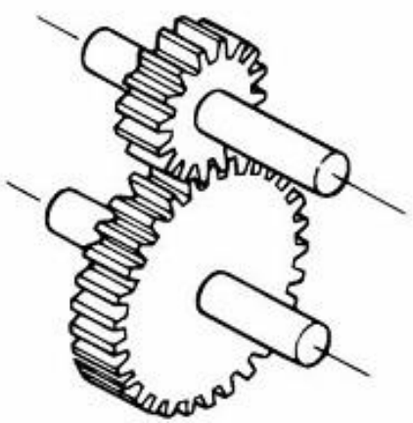
Ed Boughal, Chairman of the Suffolk Community College Foundation Board

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Long Island Manufacturing Industry



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20th

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Congratulations

To all Tonight's Honorees and
Best Wishes for a successful 2026 Salute to Excellence Gala

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