2011-2012 Year in Review

Maintained Long Island's Lowest Annual Tuition. New York State's approved budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year held good news for community colleges. By raising the level of base State aid by $150 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student, the budget provided additional funding for the State's two-year institutions. This is the first increase in community college base aid since the 2007-2008 fiscal year. As the largest community college in the SUNY system, the increase means approximately $3.0 million in additional funding for Suffolk County Community College. This increase, combined with two years of concerted fiscal management, enabled the College to finalize its operating budget for the 2012-2013 year without requiring any increase to annual student tuition or fees.

The College is sensitive to limiting tuition increases in order to keep higher education affordable for Suffolk County residents and we are extremely happy that our students will not see an increase in tuition for the 2012-2013 academic year. We are grateful to all of our elected officials for their leadership in supporting community colleges locally and also at the state level.

Budget Submissions. This spring, the College completed its annual Operating and Capital Budget submissions, which sought to advance core elements of the vision and mission of the institution. In order to maintain tuition affordability, my administration has proactively taken steps to diversify its funding base, establish innovative partnerships, implement internal efficiencies that support cost avoidance, initiated cost savings strategies, and enhanced the use of technology.

We also advocated successfully for the inclusion of $24.2 million in capital projects that had been removed or excluded from the County's Capital Budget. Working with all of our elected officials in the Legislature, these exclusions were overturned and subsequently restored. This latest effort follows upon our success in working with the

