including graduation from a New York high school or GED program, to pay the in-state tuition rate. At its June meeting, the College's Board of Trustees passed a memorializing resolution asking the New York State Legislature to enact the Dream Act and establish the New York State Dream Fund Commission. The Board took this action because it believes in providing all students, regardless of their immigration status, with an opportunity to study at the college level and meet their career goals. Across New York State, the concept of equitable access has been formally approved by the State University of New York, the City University of New York, the New York City Council and numerous advocacy groups.

This past spring, 14 Suffolk County Community College students were selected to receive the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. This is the highest number of recipients named at any single SUNY institution and I am proud to report that the number of students recognized with this honor has been consistent over time.



I joined colleagues from across the country for AACC's release of "Reclaiming the American Dream: Community Colleges and the Nation's Future," a report by the 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges. Since its formation in July 2011, the commission has examined the opportunities and challenges confronting the nation's largest and fastest growing higher education sector. Community colleges currently enroll close to half of all U.S. undergraduates; the ratio is even greater at SUNY, where more than half (246,000) of the system's students are enrolled at 30 community colleges. AACC has convened a nationwide implementation team to move the recommendations from this report forward. I am honored to serve as a member of this team.

In July, I was invited to attend a meeting with Carl McCall, Chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees to discuss possible areas of collaboration between SUNY and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, represented by Fazal Karim the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Ambassador Rodney Charles and Consul General Nan Ramgoolam. This meeting was arranged on short notice to take advantage of the Minister's visit to New York City. The meeting concluded with an agreement to schedule an official delegation visit with the intention of working to share curriculum and to transfer knowledge. In addition, the Trinidad and Tobago Government would consider sending a delegation to the SUNY conference in the fall of 2012 and similarly, a delegation from SUNY will visit Trinidad and Tobago at a conference to be arranged and held in 2013. I was selected by Chairman McCall to organize the delegation's visit and to serve as the liaison between SUNY and the Trinidad and Tobago government representatives.

As we celebrate another successful year we recently learned that the College's Ammerman Campus Chapter of Psi Beta, the national honor society in psychology for community colleges, has earned the 2011-2012 Chapter Excellence Award. This award challenges chapters to engage in activities reflecting Psi Beta's mission priorities of leadership, scholarship, community service and research. Few of the nation's Psi Beta chapters achieve this level of distinction. The achievement is acknowledged on the Psi Beta website (see the awards page at http://psibeta.org).

Campus speech and debate teams on both the Ammerman and Michael J. Grant campuses enjoyed national and international success at various competitions, including the Phi Rho Pi National Forensics Championship in Schaumburg, Illinois, the International Forensics Championship in Rome, Italy and the National Forensics Championship at Ohio University.