

The Faculty Association's "Professors on Wheels" recognized 29 new graduates from a local nursing home.



educational institutions and businesses that have been at the cornerstone of creating equal opportunity for Long Island residents. Among this year's honorees was Suffolk County Community College. We thank and acknowledge Trustee Theresa Sanders for her tireless efforts as President and CEO of the Urban League, in working to ensure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights for Long Island's residents.

This June, I attended the third annual graduation ceremony for the Faculty Association's Community Outreach program "Professors on Wheels" at the Island Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Twenty-nine residents graduated in front of family, friends, College faculty, and leadership from the College. This program has made great strides in the past year, and continues to grow rapidly. The program's success was twice highlighted in Newsday and recently captured on News Channel 12. A national American Federation of Teachers (AFT) article devoted to the program's success, in addition to recognition by NYSUT have also been received. The program's faculty organizers also presented before the Suffolk County Legislature, where they were met with great enthusiasm. I would like to thank the Faculty Association and the program's leadership for this outstanding example of community outreach.

Strategic Planning. As assessment and strategic planning are a high priority within the College, significant resources have been invested in support for this area. The expertise of the professional staff chosen to lead this effort will help bring our institution to national prominence. This year we combined our Strategic Planning Council with the Assessment Advisory Council. These two groups are assisting our Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness by providing input for the latest iteration of our Strategic Plan. This plan provides a means by which the College can identify needs, anticipate change and assess its activities in order to implement appropriate institutional initiatives and responses. In turn, our planning and assessment efforts will guide our budget and resource allocation decisions.

As a first step in the planning process, the college community affirmed that our existing mission and vision statements continue to reflect the College's focus. In December, we met to review the College's draft institutional goals, which are a foundational component of our strategic planning effort and concluded our meeting by agreeing on the following goals:

Student Success: To foster the intellectual, physical, social, and civic development of students through excellent and rigorous academic programs and comprehensive student services

Community Development/Societal Improvement: To promote the social and economic development of the community we serve.

Access and Affordability: To provide access to higher education by reducing economic, social, geographic and time barriers.

Institutional Effectiveness: To monitor and assess the performance of the institution to ensure continuous improvement in achieving the mission, vision and goals of the College.

Communication: To promote transparent and effective communication within the college community, as well as with and external constituencies.

The Institutional Goals were then forwarded to the Board of Trustees. The Board, in addition to adopting the five recommended goals, approved a sixth goal to further support

Institutional Diversity: To reflect the ethnic and economic composition of Suffolk County.

To develop the institutional goals, a two-day retreat was held with more than fifty faculty, administrators, and staff engaged in an adapted environmental scan and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. These activities sparked dialogue about present and potential future conditions at the College and