

Students Mary Beth Kerstiens and Dimitri Hampton help drive awareness about the College's veterans' programs.

Veterans. In partnership with the Suffolk County Office of Veterans Affairs, the College presented career, training and workforce development information to over 500 returning veterans associated with Long Island's Fighting 69th Infantry Regiment. Twelve College staff members representing areas ranging from the advanced manufacturing program, to culinary arts, to enrollment management were there to answer questions about the College and its programs.

The College has formed a Veterans Advisory Board. Its purpose will be to assist in efforts to enhance the higher education experiences enjoyed by current and future Veterans who attend Suffolk. Members of the College's Veterans Advisory Board will advise the College on the unique needs of Veteran students and their families, identifying existing programs and resources on Long Island that would benefit our students, and recommending partnerships the College can pursue in support of our Veteran students. The membership of the Veterans Advisory Board will consist of representatives from the college community, government, labor, and community-based organizations and will meet several times per year.

The unemployment rate for Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan is 13.1 percent, significantly higher than the national average. So we were pleased to host United States Congressman Steve Israel as he announced new legislation to match Post-9/11 Veterans and GI Bill recipients with community colleges for training. The Revamping the Education of our Veterans to Align Manufacturing through Partnerships with Community Colleges (REVAMP) Act, would include a skills gap analysis to determine workforce needs and job vacancies that local manufacturing companies have been unable to fill. Community colleges would develop curricula and conduct targeted skills training to fill the gaps. Working with the local VA and the Department of Defense, community colleges would target Iraq- and Afghanistan-era Veterans in the region for certificate or degree programs ranging from 24-weeks to two years in the manufacturing sectors identified in the skills gap analysis. At the completion of the training program, community colleges would connect Veterans with companies in need of their skills.

Partnership Development. As part of our effort to address remediation issues in our region, the College has engaged in a pilot program with an area high school where faculty members from our Eastern Campus work with the high school's teachers. Together, we share course content and expectations. Initial results from the 2010-2011 pilot are encouraging. High School seniors who were enrolled in the course entitled "Mathematics for the College Bound" were given a diagnostic exam that indicated their strengths and weaknesses in content, similar to a college placement test. A structured curriculum was then followed where students satisfied any remediation they needed during their senior year in high school. After the initial assessment test, intervention methods were implemented — including the use of an artificial-intelligence learning software package in math, combined with a curriculum that provides students with the skills that college-placement tests typically address in math. This approach enabled us to address deficiencies and retest students during the normal college application process. The initial results of the pilot indicated a 63% increase in students testing into college-level courses, compared with the previous year's results for students from that high school who applied to Suffolk County Community College.

Our partnership with Long Island University continues to expand. We have a satellite building on our Eastern Campus that accommodates some of LIU's Bachelor's and Graduate degree programs. We are currently working on another partnership that will

LIU Riverhead

Delhi STATE UNIVERSITY of NEW YORK