

I joined the Eastern Long Island NAACP at its 60th Anniversary membership luncheon as the keynote speaker in Southampton just before Election Day. My remarks on the theme: "Your Power, Your Decision-Vote," were framed around the power and value of education that transforms lives and builds stronger communities.

The College was represented at the Celebration of Suburban Diversity Banquet, sponsored by the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University and supported our Board Chairwoman Dafny Irizarry when she was honored as part of the Herstory Writing Workshop. Chairwoman Irizarry was recognized for her ground-breaking work in the area of education and for creating opportunities to hear the stories within our Long Island communities.

On April 25th, I was honored to be recognized by the Islandia-Central Islip Rotary Club during its Second Annual Multicultural Gala. Funds from this event will be used to support military veterans and first responders. Other honorees were Cornelia Gevinski, Rotary District 7260 Governor 2012-2013 and John Feal, Founder of the Feal Good Foundation. I was also among the honorees at the First Annual Long Island NAACP ACT-SO Achievers Dinner. I was joined by fellow honorees Theresa Sanders (Urban League President and College BOT Member), Felice Jones-Lee (Southside Hospital and Foundation Board member), and Emerson Mott (Uniondale School District).



Suffolk County Community College had a major presence at the Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade in Brentwood.

In June, the College participated in the annual Puerto Rican/Hispanic Day Parade in Brentwood. Our marchers included an enthusiastic group of students with both our outgoing Student Trustee and our incoming Student Trustee participating. The Parade enables us to remain visible to our alumni, and the Foundation's Executive Director and its Director of Alumni Affairs were both present. In addition, the Chairwoman of our Board of Trustees, Dafny Irizarry, served as the Parade Grand Marshal. Another Board member, Belinda Alverez-Groneman, also marched and her mother was honored as part of the day's activities.



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed between Suffolk and Trinidad and Tobago's Metal Industries Company (MIC). Pictured (left to right) are: David Lee, Chairman, Metal Industries Company; Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training; Dr. Shaun L. McKay; John Lombardo, Suffolk's Associate Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development.

Partnership Development. As part of an innovative solution to develop skills training for emerging industries, Suffolk County Community College signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May with the government of Trinidad and Tobago and Metal Industries Company (MIC) to explore ways to develop academic courses and training programs that will mutually benefit workforce development programs in each respective region. Metal Industries Company is a major skills training provider and a government-sponsored limited liability corporation that operates 15 centers located throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The MOU and the valuable relationships we are forging will further distinguish the College as a global innovator. Representatives from MIC visited the College in June. This visit was the first phase of the partnership. MIC's representatives learned details about Suffolk's model for workforce development training and had the opportunity to meet several College partners and tour their industry facilities. The College's Board Chairwoman, Dafny Irizarry, and Trustee Theresa Sanders were present at a number of the delegation's activities. MIC's Chairman, David Lee, stated that he looks forward to replicating some of the College's transformative success in Trinidad and Tobago.

This spring, we reached agreement with Long Island University (LIU) on the leasing of a modular building to be constructed on the Michael J. Grant Campus. A vendor has been selected to construct a single story 24,000-square-foot building comprised of 16 classrooms, one computer classroom, a lounge and associated faculty and administrative offices. Until the proposed building is constructed, the College will provide temporary classroom spaces and administrative office spaces through a short-term lease. A public/private partnership agreement of this magnitude is one of the first