before the end of January. Changes were also made to the de-scheduling process so that students whose balance is $300 or less are bypassed and unaffected.

The College hosted an Academic Convocation on the first day of classes for the fall 2012 semester. This was a new approach for leading off the academic year, and we were honored to have the keynote address delivered by SUNY Board Chairman H. Carl McCall. During the afternoon program, the College welcomed new faculty members and students, honored six SUNY Chancellor Award recipients, two Professor Emeritus designees and one faculty member recently honored with a special statewide award. Approximately 300 students, faculty and administrators attended the Convocation. A similar event will take place for the 2013 fall semester.



During New York Completion Day, a statewide initiative involving all 37 SUNY and CUNY community colleges, students pledged to complete their degree or credential programs.

In October, the College participated in New York Completion Day, a statewide initiative involving all 37 SUNY and CUNY community colleges, where a single day was used to focus on activities encouraging students to complete their degree or credential programs. This effort was organized under the auspices of the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP). Completion Day was a huge success on all our campuses and successfully provided our students with a better understanding of the importance of completion. Our campuses worked closely with their Phi Theta Kappa chapters, as completion is also a focus area for this organization. Alumnus and Foundation Board Treasurer Eric Martinez, was prominently featured in the statewide video shared with all of SUNY's and CUNY's community colleges.

The College is poised to participate on a project that will allow its astronomy faculty and students access to a world-class telescope. The Astronomical Society of New York (ASNY), consisting of several research-level universities and four-year colleges such as Columbia, Cornell, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Stony Brook, as well as the Natural History Museum in New York, the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center, to name but a few, are to develop and build an observatory either in Chile or Hawaii. Suffolk is the only community college affiliated with the Society. To be a member is a great honor and reflects how highly we are regarded in the scientific educational community. This project will allow our students and faculty unprecedented opportunities that otherwise would not exist. The Observatory will provide a major focus and impetus to astrophysics research and technology development in New York that will advance education, technology, science, the economy, and STEM education at all levels in the State. It will also support the growth of technology and science-based jobs and enhance the research reputation of New York State on the world stage. When completed, the telescope will be the largest ground-based optical-infrared telescope in the world.



To commence the new academic year, the College held an academic convocation featuring H. Carl McCall, Chairman of the State University of New York Board of Trustees.