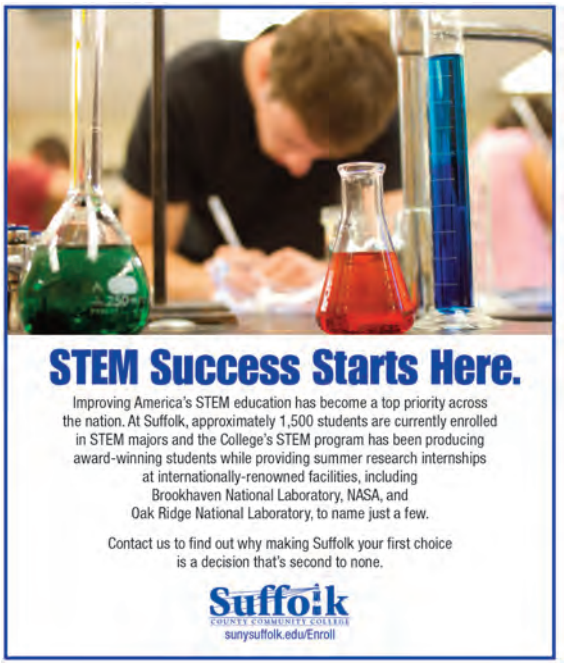

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The NSF S-STEM National projects meeting took place in October. At this national meeting of over 400 NSF principal investigators, project officers, and policy makers, Suffolk County Community College was afforded a national platform to highlight the wide scope and breadth of our quality STEM initiatives. Dr. Candice Foley chaired two sessions at this national meeting and College STEM scholar Cassandra Nyati, who is also a SUNY Chancellor's Education Pipeline Research Scholar, participated on the student panel. The College's Office of Institutional Advancement produced a video for airing at this event that featured the College and its scholars, SUNY administration, Brookhaven National Lab, and statewide STEM project directors delivering a strong narrative about the NSF S-STEM program at Suffolk.

Dr. Candice Foley and Associate Dean Nina Leonhardt delivered a presentation at the 244th American Chemical Society's National Meeting and Exposition in Philadelphia. Entitled, "Assessment of Community College Student Participation in STEM Research Projects," their session addressed the need for more STEM professionals in the U.S. and illustrated how the College has obtained grant funding for an inclusive STEM support model. This model focuses on the impact of including social and cultural supports in addition to traditional academic services and internships upon STEM student persistence and success. Since 2007, the College has leveraged NSF S-STEM grants and a Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) to create a STEM community of scholars.

In March, Tim Killeen, President of the Research Foundation for SUNY (RF) and SUNY Vice Chancellor for Research, announced that the RF was redeploying $300,000 for the specific purpose of offering opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in STEM research projects. As a result of Suffolk's strong programmatic NSF S-STEM grant outcomes and collaborations for community college student research experiences and opportunities, Candice J. Foley, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and the College's NSF S-STEM PI/Chair, has been asked to join the new SUNY STEM Undergraduate Research committee being established by the Research Foundation. This committee will explore opportunities to create a more robust program to enhance research opportunities in the STEM disciplines for undergraduate students across the SUNY system. A primary goal of the program will be to stimulate undergraduate recruitment and retention in the STEM disciplines through to graduation.

Suffolk County Community College's STEP students' research posters and accompanying oral presentations were well received at the 2013 STEP Statewide Student Research Poster Competition in Albany:

- Giselle A. Feliciano (10th grade, Brentwood High School) secured 2nd Place, Biological/Life Sciences- Junior Division, for her project, *The Effect of Titanium Dioxide Nano-particles on the Regeneration Rate and Motility of Planeria Dugesia*. This research explored the effect of nanoparticles on regenerating organisms which could lead to medical applications such as regenerating body parts and healing wounds. Giselle was mentored by Suffolk Professor Vladimir Jurukovski (Biology) along with biology mentors at Stony Brook University.
- John Mele (12th grade, Central Islip High School) secured 3rd Place, Physical Sciences- Senior Division, for his project, *Stretching DNA Molecules on a Flexible Substrate Probed by Polarized-Dependent Fluorescence Microscopy*. This research focused on the ability to stretch DNA strands by using polymers. Applications of this work could lead to deeper understanding of the genomic sequencing of the human DNA molecular structure. John was mentored by Suffolk Professors