John Jerome (Mathematics) and Vladimir Jurukovski (Biology), along with materials science mentors at Stony Brook University.

Throughout the academic year, *Newsday* featured many of Suffolk's STEM students and program alumni in its "STEM Spotlight."

Sustainability. LIRACHE recently invited over 20 institutions to discuss their particular sustainability initiatives. We discussed: 1) Our receipt of energy conservation grants – one to install five high-efficiency condensing boilers, one to retro-commission the existing college-wide computerized HVAC control system, and one for water conservation; 2) Construction of our LEED Gold Workforce Development Training Center and our plans to pursue LEED certification for the Montaukett Learning Resource Center and three additional buildings not yet constructed; 3) Completion of a NYPA-funded energy efficiency project that replaced numerous outdated HVAC equipment (boilers, chillers, etc.) with high-efficiency units, and 4) Renovation of two buildings (Southampton and Riverhead) with high-efficiency lighting, windows, and HVAC systems.

The College is developing a new GPRO skills training program in conjunction with the U.S. Green Building Council. GPRO is a comprehensive national training and certificate program developed by the Urban Green Council that teaches construction and renovation contractors and building maintenance personnel the principles of sustainability and green construction, and encourages them to integrate green practices into their trade. As the sole source for GPRO training on Long Island, the program will enhance the College's workforce enrollment as well as its leadership role in green industry training.

The College hosted State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle's annual environmental forum in February. The event brought together more than 65 elected officials, environmentalists and civic leaders for a two-hour roundtable discussion of issues and concerns related to the environment.

Building Ongoing Relationships. In January, the College continued its support for the Annual College/Career Week Program at the Mulligan Intermediate School in the Central Islip School District as part of the Community Leaders Paving Paths for Mulligan Students Program. During the week, several members of the college community spoke to classes at the school. I enjoyed having the opportunity to address more than 500 5th and 6th graders about the importance of a good education.

On May 3rd, our Culinary Arts Program hosted a gala celebrating Long Island's 40 years of wine production. The event enabled us to raise more than $9,000 for student scholarships supporting culinary arts education. In a room filled to capacity, the College recognized Long Island Wine Council Board President Ron Goerler, Jr. and Executive Director Steven Bate for their dedication to the local wine industry and culinary community.

On Sunday, May 19th, the College held its 2013 Commencement exercises. Over 3,800 students qualified for graduation this year, and approximately 1,000 graduates attended the ceremony with their friends and families. Student speakers from each campus and our keynote speaker, Dr. Harold Fernandez, were all warmly received by the audience of over 4,000. Ellen Schuler Mauk, who is retiring from the College as a professor of English and a member of our faculty since 1970, and who has served as the College Faculty Association President for 34 years, was selected as the Grand Marshal. During the ceremony, it was my honor and privilege to present Student

