We worked diligently to keep everyone informed via a number of communication mediums: email, New York Alert, local media storm centers, Facebook, the College's home page, even phone chains were utilized as methods for getting updates out to the community. Essential staff even processed pay stubs to the 500 employees who receive them biweekly and also distributed paychecks through our business offices to those workers not enrolled in direct deposit. Little did we know that a few months later, these same individuals would be called upon once again—this time to clear two to three feet of snow from a winter nor'easter named Nemo.



After the storm passed, we made a determination not to impose any late fees on those students who were unable to make their scheduled payments as part of our tuition payment plan program. This was important because balances must be current in order for students to be able to take advantage of priority registration, which started on the Wednesday after the storm. Students were advised of the College's decision on this issue via Facebook, email and the portal. These were key dates and we were sensitive to ensuring that students would not experience any negative impact as a result of the storm.

Once again, we were a good neighbor to the Long Island community by opening the vacant property on our Michael J. Grant Campus to serve as a site for hosting some of National Grid's out-of-state utility vehicles and crews, along with necessary support services such as portable housing and food for the workers. In addition, the campus hosted EMS responders and ambulances with support personnel; families and pets that were evacuated on the eastern end of Long Island were housed in a county shelter established at our Eastern Campus.

Following clean-up efforts, storm relief activities were initiated. I asked the Office of Institutional Advancement to coordinate the design and development of a micro-site within the College's website to let both internal and external communities know what the College was doing to support relief efforts. The site was designed to ensure that the College could reactivate its use whenever a future disaster or catastrophic circumstance warranted a College response. Following Superstorm Sandy, the site provided the latest information regarding campus and college-wide relief activities and served as an access point for students, faculty and staff seeking to find help and information from resources across Long Island, and to make donations in support of those in need. In addition, the Michael J. Grant Campus hosted a Hurricane Sandy Relief Benefit at the Van Nostrand Theatre, with proceeds allocated to benefit the Suffolk Community College Foundation Relief Fund, which was established to provide assistance for members of the college community that needed help replacing textbooks, computers or other electronic equipment, purchasing clothing and food, and covering costs associated with commuting or other necessities. At the event, donation bins were also set up to receive donations of clothing and other items for Pronto of Long Island and Long Island Cares.



Our microsite informed internal and external communities regarding relief efforts and resources.