Operating and Capital Budget Submissions. Last year, I was able to report that through the efforts of the State Legislature, New York's community colleges received a $150 increase to State base aid per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) student. This action had an enormous positive impact on the College. In fact, it was the driving force behind our ability to maintain annual tuition at $3,990 for a second consecutive year. This year, working with the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP), we successfully advocated for a Year Two increase of another $150 per FTE to State base aid. This action raised the community college base aid to $2,422 per FTE. The final State budget also provided maintenance of effort provisions through the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program legislation, continues to provide eligible students with financial assistance in the form of a Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) credit, and restores more than $1.5 million for SUNY and CUNY child care centers which provide vital assistance to parents who attend college.



The leadership at the College continues to work collaboratively with County elected officials in order to provide valuable programs and services for Suffolk County residents.

While State funding was increased for the coming year, Suffolk County is facing a looming deficit. As we developed our 2013-2014 operating budget, College campuses and departments were directed to submit no-growth budget requests. This year, our budget planning projections assume a continued leveling off of enrollment by another 2%. As a result, we have increased our targeted enrollment marketing efforts and continue to closely monitor the number of sections being offered each semester. For example, in spring 2012 we ran 3,508 sections; in spring 2013 we ran 3,388 sections, a decrease of 120 sections college-wide. The Suffolk County Legislature complimented the College for its fiscal restraint and expressed its appreciation to our Board for its decision not to request any additional operating support from the County next year. In light of enrollment projections and increases to our contractual obligations for retirement costs, healthcare benefits and salaries, a modest increase of $150 to our 2013-2014 annual tuition was necessary. Our budgeting goals are to remain affordable and accessible, to maintain our ability to respond to emerging workforce needs and changing demographics, to retain qualified faculty and staff, and to offer programs that meet state and local priorities.

We are grateful to our county elected officials for their leadership on our capital budget request. The Legislators advanced funding by one year for the new Health and Wellness Facility at the Eastern Campus and added our new project for the construction of a Renewable Energy/STEM Center at the Michael J. Grant Campus. The Legislature also approved the appropriation of $50,000 in planning for the Traffic Circle at the Ammerman Campus and the third installment of $10.3 million for collegewide infrastructure projects.



The College provides frequent updates to the County Legislature's Education and Information Technology Committee.