

Studies. The award recognizes individuals whose leadership, both in the legal profession and in the community, has had a positive impact on Long Island.

The College received honorable mention as a finalist for the 2013 AACC Awards of Excellence in the Emerging Leadership category. This honor puts our institution in the vanguard of community colleges nationwide, distinguishing Suffolk County Community College as a model of progressive practice and innovation. The program was established to recognize exceptional achievement and leadership among community colleges and to increase national visibility for exemplary practices that will ultimately benefit all community colleges. Our application focused on the implementation of the Leadership Academy.

Adjunct Instructor of Philosophy, Thomas Curtin, was recently announced as the winner of the 2013 Colin and Ailsa Turbayne International Berkeley Essay Prize Competition for his essay "Berkeley's Conception of Causal Power." Only one winner was selected.

The College's Ammerman Campus student newspaper, COMPASS NEWS, placed second as Overall Best College Newspaper at the 2013 Press Club of Long Island's annual award banquet in June. The Press Club of Long Island is the local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

The College's Long Island Shakespeare Festival offered free public performances of an abridged version of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" during July. The 13th season performances were presented outdoors on the Ammerman Campus in Selden.



Advocacy. Last August, the College's Board of Trustees adopted a resolution urging the United States Congress to reject the House Budget Committee's proposal to cut funding and eligibility for Pell grants in fiscal year 2013. The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants primarily to low-income undergraduate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Pell grants help more than 9 million Americans attend and complete college. Approximately 9,000 of our College's students rely on Pell Grants to pursue their studies.

Once again, I was invited to join SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, Chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees Carl McCall and select presidents from other SUNY institutions in meetings with state legislators during SUNY Day in Albany. For the second year in a row, the Chancellor asked me to take the lead during these meetings in advocating for institutional support for community colleges. Included in my appointments were meetings with State Senate Coalition Majority Leaders Dean Skelos and Jeff Klein, Senators Kenneth LaValle, John Flanagan, Charles Fuschillo, and Lee Zeldin, Assemblymen Robert Sweeney and Steven Englebright and Counsel to Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Silver. The priority initiative for SUNY's community colleges, was to advocate for a second year increase to base state aid. For the College, we took this opportunity to also speak about our plans for the Renewable Energy and STEM Center, seeking State support for this important capital project.

After departing Albany, I went on to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 35-member American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) 21st Century Initiative–Implementation Steering Committee. Over the coming year, this small group will expand on the work of the 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges by focusing on the Implementation Strategies outlined in the Commission's report: *Reclaiming the American Dream*. This group will generally oversee the implementation recommendations set forth in the report. This work