Academic Affairs. In October, the College partnered with Stony Brook University and Adelphi University to host international educators for the purpose of professional development training. Education USA is an initiative that is sponsored by the U.S. State Department and is hosted in cooperation with the Institute of International Education. The program provides visiting educators with information that will help them assist students with enrolling at institutions of higher education in the United States.

Beginning with the fall semester, the College entered into an agreement with Adelphi University to offer a 2+2 nurse education program (AA degree to BSN degree) at our Sayville location. Adelphi received a large response to this offering and saw an enrollment of 60 students enter into the program. This option provides a service to our students, allowing them to transfer easily and remain close to home while completing their baccalaureate degree.

The College is approaching the end of its contract with our current learning management system, Desire to Learn (D2L). Simultaneously, the SUNY system is advancing the implementation of Open SUNY, which will bring all online courses offered at each of SUNY's 64 campuses onto a shared online environment, making them accessible to all of the system's students and faculty members. In consideration of these factors, the College's academic community discussed changing its vendor from D2L to Blackboard. Numerous campus feedback sessions were held during the spring semester. Based on the feedback received, analysis of the cost comparisons, review of the vendor proposals, and the parameters of the Chancellor's Open SUNY initiative, the decision was made for Suffolk to move to the SUNY Learning Network and Blackboard. The College will continue to utilize D2L through the 2013-2014 academic year. During this time, Academic Affairs and Instructional Technology will work with College Computing, the Distance Education Committee (DEC) and the Faculty Association to ensure a seamless transition and integration.

On March 5th, over 500 members of the college community came together for Professional Development Day. This year's theme, "Improving Curriculum Design," was highly relevant. Discussion centered on curriculum and its connection to our strategic plan, assessment and Middle States accreditation expectations. Curriculum is the primary vehicle through which we educate our students. It brings together a set of carefully crafted and related courses into programs of study, enabling our students to fulfill the goal of transfer or career readiness.

The SUNY system announced that it is one of ten national partners joining with Coursera to develop a common platform for the delivery of Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs). The partnership will provide all SUNY campuses with an avenue to offer and use MOOCs as part of the SUNY system's Open SUNY initiative. Coursera, the world's largest MOOC platform provider, has more than 3.5 million learners enrolled in 374 courses to date. The Open SUNY vision seeks to enable students to earn up to one-third of their college credits from sources outside their home campus. The new partnership will give SUNY students increased access to the online courses SUNY faculty offer in New York and worldwide. This approach allows faculty to experiment with and improve upon existing "blended learning," which combines online video lectures and content with active, in-person classroom interactions to increase classroom engagement.

Modifications were made to various academic affairs procedures this year. The College adjusted the timing for the annual selection of its incoming nursing class. The cut-off for applications will now be January 1st each year, with final selections completed