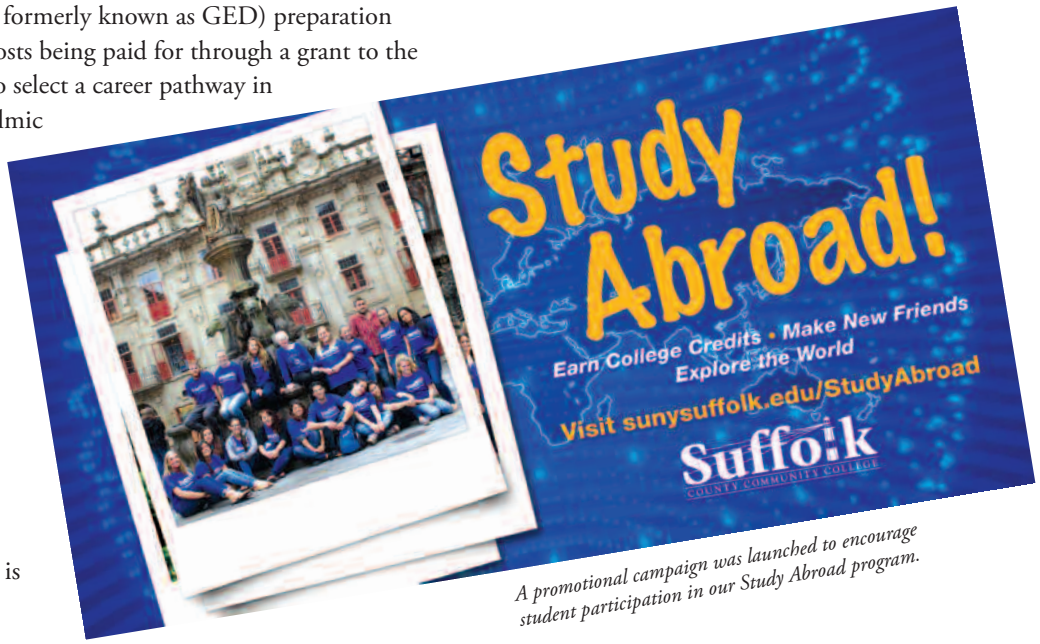
of our faculty be trained by the developers of this program, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This fall, we will offer ten sections on our three campuses. Assessment of the pilot's success will determine program continuation.

This year, our Academic Chairs came together in an effort to increase the number of Excelsior courses being offered at the College's partnering high schools located across Suffolk County. Through their work, the number of high schools participating in the program will increase by four for the 2015-2016 academic year. The Excelsior Program enables motivated high school juniors and seniors to take Suffolk County Community College courses at their high school campus during their regular school hours, while simultaneously working toward high school graduation. College credits earned in the Excelsior Program can be applied toward a degree at Suffolk or can be transferred, thus minimizing the time it takes to complete a college degree.

Professional development is important to maintaining a vibrant faculty and dynamic curriculum. As such, it stands as a hallmark that I have pressed forward as President, and is something I will continue to emphasize. This year, professional development activities included the addition of online opportunities such as the Monday Morning Mentor series. This series allows participation by faculty and staff that might be unavailable to attend sessions held on specific dates or in specific locations. The Office of Instructional Technology hosted extensive training focused on maximizing the use of our learning management system, Blackboard. An eLearning Academy was also developed and is set to host its first class of participants this September. It will include guest instructors and provide faculty with an opportunity to earn continuing education units (CEU) that can be used to meet faculty promotion requirements.

Continuing education staff delivered an orientation and assessment at United Way Long Island for students participating in the YouthBuild program. Special Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC – formerly known as GED) preparation courses began in November, with tuition costs being paid for through a grant to the College's Foundation. Students were able to select a career pathway in energy, energy efficiency, health IT, ophthalmic tech or pharmacy tech that they will pursue concurrently as they work toward their high school equivalency.



A promotional campaign was launched to encourage student participation in our Study Abroad program.

With the increased emphasis on the importance of having a world view and possessing a global perspective, the College implemented enhanced policies and procedures related to its Study Abroad programs. These changes ensure continued safe travel for our students and compliance with College and State Study Abroad protocols. The availability of Study Abroad is considered an important selling point for students, as many colleges now offer these opportunities. With support from the Office of Institutional Advancement, a promotional campaign was launched on our campuses to encourage student enrollment in these programs. The promotion included installation of large, colorful outdoor banners and distribution of posters and brochures, all of which feature our students. This year, our students were able to enjoy summer learning experiences in Spain, Italy (Florence and Sorrento), and St. Lucia.