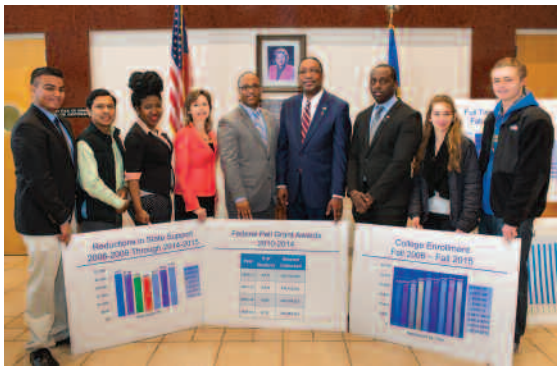
new furniture and window treatments were installed. A new playground was installed at the Campus Kids Children's Learning Center on the Ammerman Campus.

In May, over 125 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony hosted for the new Learning Resource Center taking shape on the Michael J. Grant Campus, including members from our Board of Trustees, and student body. Congratulatory remarks from the Suffolk County Legislature were delivered by Sarah Anker, Thomas Barraga, Monica Martinez, Robert Trotta, and Leslie Kennedy. The community was also well represented, with the invocation being delivered by Reverend Daris Dixon-Clark, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bay Shore and concluding remarks from Richard O'Kane - President, Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau and Suffolk Counties. In attendance were community leaders, including Mary Reid and representatives from the Brentwood Library and Eastern Suffolk BOCES. It is estimated that construction will take 18 months to complete.



Our students attended Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory's press conference to highlight the need for Pell Grant funding.

I believe our teaching and learning environment is important to student success. By investing in new buildings and renovating our existing infrastructure, we are able to maintain a setting where faculty can comfortably engage our students.

Advocacy

This year, much of my time and focus were dedicated to leading advocacy efforts on behalf of the College, its students, and SUNY. In addition to speaking in support of the College's operating and capital budget efforts detailed in earlier sections of this report:

- I was heavily engaged in emphasizing to members of the State Assembly and Senate the importance of enhanced State Aid support for community colleges in general and Suffolk County Community College, specifically.
- I was one of the College Presidents invited by the New York State United Teachers' (NYSUT) to attend their annual Community College Conference to further develop the strategy for an advocacy launch associated with the "Reclaiming the Promise" effort across New York State. This effort was aligned with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) nation-wide campaign of the same name, seeking additional investment in public education. By uniting students, parents, faculty, and staff, the community organizers hoped to positively influence the level of funding received by community colleges.
- In October, I was invited to join New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo at Mineola Middle School as he received the final report from the Smart Schools Commission. The Commission is an advisory board established by the Governor to gather information on strategies that will help schools to effectively invest proceeds from the proposed $2 billion Smart Schools Bond. The Commission's findings focused on expanding robust broadband and wireless connectivity for schools and communities across New York to support technology-enhanced learning environments.
- The College supported the Save Student Aid campaign. Under the leadership of the American Council on Education (ACE), this campaign was designed to increase awareness and spur action against congressional threats to curtail federal student aid programs. One proposal currently under consideration would freeze the Pell Grant maximum at $5,775 for the next 10 years. Students were encouraged to respond digitally to the Save Student Aid Website, and to 'Like' the Save Student Aid campaign on Facebook or Twitter. The College's office of Central Financial Aid sent a mailing to almost 9,000 currently enrolled Pell Grant recipients to support the campaign.
- At the invitation of DuWayne Gregory, the County Legislature's Presiding



Students engaged in direct conversations with State elected officials.



Suffolk student advocacy included a 4 a.m. bus ride to Albany to encourage enhanced funding for community colleges.