Officer, individuals from the College attended his press conference to bring attention to the U.S. House of Representatives' effort to freeze Pell funding. Six of our students attended the press conference, including the Board's Student Trustee Gardy Amilcar. Two of our students spoke about the impact such an action would have on their ability to afford college.

- To gain a better local understanding of this issue, the College hosted a public hearing in April at the Michael J. Grant Campus. Presiding Officer Gregory, and the Chair of the Legislature's Higher Education and Information Technology Committee, Sarah Anker, received presentations from administrators representing Stony Brook University and Suffolk County Community College. The elected officials also heard moving testimony regarding what such aid cuts would mean to students if implemented. A number of media outlets picked up on the story, including the local affiliate of National Public Radio.
- I was invited by the New York State Assembly Republican members from Suffolk and Nassau counties to provide testimony at a budget hearing on Governor Cuomo's 2015-2016 Executive Budget proposal.
- In March, I was interviewed by Ernie Fazio on Long Island News Radio. We discussed why Suffolk County Community College is a wise first choice for graduating high school seniors, the economic impact our institution has on the local economy, and our contributions to workforce development and meeting the demands of Long Island employers.
- Under the direction of Trustee Theresa Sanders, President and CEO of the Urban League of Long Island and Board of Trustees Chair, and in collaboration with the New York State Association of Urban League Executives, the Urban League hosted a contingency of Suffolk students as part of the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators Conference in Albany. During this event, students had the opportunity to meet legislators and advocate for the College.
- I joined two busloads of students and administrators from the College who travelled to the New York State Capitol in Albany on March 4th, for SUNY Advocacy Day. Our 62 students broke into small groups and covered the Capitol. They advocated before members of the state legislature seeking increased State Base Aid per Full-Time Equivalent student, support for community college child care center appropriations, and the Reclaiming the Promise initiative, asking our elected officials to provide the percentage amount of financial support to community colleges that is written into law. Suffolk was the only institution to attend with student ambassadors. Our students visited every Assemblyperson from the Long Island delegation, as well as most of Long Island's Senators, including Ken LaValle, Chair of the Senate's Higher Education Committee. Through a personal connection, our students were also able to meet with the Assembly's newly elected Speaker, Carl Heastie. The students represented our institution well and they were warmly received.
- During the summer, I joined area higher education leaders and Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker and Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory at a news conference hosted by the Long Island Regional Advisory Council for Higher Education (LIRACHE) at SUNY Farmingdale. This most recent press event is the latest in a series of public sessions where I have joined elected officials and other prominent education leaders to discuss the importance of the Pell Grant program to our students. As part of the event, LIRACHE announced its release of a report on the impact that proposed program cuts or a 10-year Pell Grant freeze would have on Long Island students. To emphasize the impact of this program, according to the report, at least one of every 100 Pell Grant recipients in the nation, are from Long Island.



Pell Grants



An interview on L.I. News Radio featured the total impact that Suffolk County Community College has on our region.



Student Trustee Gardy Amilcar played an active role in the College's advocacy efforts, representing the student body.

LIRACHE
LONG ISLAND REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION