On November 19th, the Eastern Campus hosted its annual Multicultural Thanksgiving Celebration, compliments of the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development and featuring food prepared by staff, as well as food contributed by eight area restaurants. I joined campus administrators to serve over 600 students a free hot lunch, in advance of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

SoLII
Stay on Long Island Initiative

Scholarship News

To honor and acknowledge the 2015 recipients of Stay on Long Island Initiative (SoLII) scholarships, the College hosted a special luncheon in May. I was deeply touched when each scholar presented me with a personalized thank you note sharing how much the receipt of the scholarship would impact upon their life and their individual academic journey. I launched the Stay on Long Island Scholarship Initiative during my Inauguration in 2010, as a way to ensure that Suffolk's most talented graduating students would be able to remain on Long Island to complete their education at one of the fifteen partnering colleges or universities that are located close to home. Since its inception, the program has awarded 147 scholarships, totaling over $3.7 million to Suffolk's best and brightest.



The deadline for new student scholarship submissions was March 13th. Thanks to a new communications strategy that included email blasts to the high school guidance community, the College received its highest number of new student scholarship applications in its history.

This year, the College purchased a new scholarship management software program. By next year, we hope to have completed the implementation of the software. All pertinent information for every scholarship currently offered by the College's Foundation has been entered into the software database known as AcademicWorks. The committee is ahead of schedule for implementation and the software will be accessible through the College's Website starting this September.



Twenty-nine new top-ranked students have been selected as 2015 Get There From Here Scholars. Based upon their applications and interviews, these students are outstanding and I am confident they will make many meaningful contributions to the College. They join the 27 continuing scholars whose tuition and fees are fully covered through this award.

Enhanced Institutional Image

This spring, as part of its planning and assessment activities, the Office of Institutional Advancement launched an opinion survey to measure the awareness and impact the College's marketing and communications have upon the general public, as well as among targeted populations (i.e., guidance counselors, high school administrators, high school students, and parents of high school students). The opinion survey generated close to 450 responses and, with assistance from the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, a report was created that summarizes the overwhelmingly positive findings. The survey findings include that over 90% of all respondents rated as "effective" or "very effective" how the College is:

- Communicating the quality of Suffolk's programs
- Meeting the educational needs of Long Islanders
- Providing information about the quality of classes and services

In addition, almost 60% of respondents said that their opinion of Suffolk County Community College has "…changed for the positive" over the past few years. Of note, 91% indicated that they were familiar with Suffolk's TV

