students to classrooms and Suffolk students to top research.

This year, the College was informed that its Chemical Dependency Counseling certificate and associate degree program was awarded $282,353 for the first year of a three-year grant-funded program that will expand the College's capacity to train certified behavioral health paraprofessionals. The College was one of 18 programs nationally, and the only program in New York State, to receive the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Paraprofessionals (BHWET) grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The three-year award will total $847,059, at least 85% of which will support tuition, fees and supplies for students enrolled in the Chemical Dependency Counseling program. The project will increase the capacity of the Chemical Dependency Counseling certificate and associate degree program by 71%, to educate 120 students each year. No other Long Island community college program offers this training. Graduates fulfill all the educational and internship requirements set forth by the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to become a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor Trainee (CASAC-T) and by the International Credentialing Reciprocity Consortium (ICRC) to be prepared to sit for the Credentialed Alcoholism Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) exam. This program is critical to our region, as youth drug abuse on Long Island continues to rise. In Suffolk County, 11th and 12th graders reported that their first drug use occurred at 14.3 years of age, while 7th and 8th graders reported first using drugs at 11.5 years old (2010-2011 Long Island Regional Youth Development Survey). Among the 18,724 individuals served by chemical dependency treatment programs in Suffolk County in 2012, alcohol was self-identified most often as the primary drug of abuse (40.5%), followed by heroin (18%).



The College received support from the non-profit American Association of University Women (AAUW) to develop an innovative program on the Eastern Campus to encourage women to pursue STEM careers. Students interested in learning about STEM careers were hosted at several events including a visit to Brookhaven National Laboratory where they met with prominent women scientists and engineers.

Other programs around the College benefitted from sponsorships. A SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grant (IITG) piloted a mobile maker space in the Eastern Campus library, giving students hands-on access to 3-D printing technology. The College completed work on the development of a cybersecurity laboratory on the Ammerman Campus sponsored by the SUNY High Needs grant competition and in preparation for the launch of a new, two-year A.A.S. degree in cybersecurity. A proposal submitted to the US Department of Agriculture, in partnership with Auburn University, received $125,000 in funding to develop an educational "Virtual Chicken" with input from graphic design and computer game design students on the Eastern Campus.

Last fall, the Office of Grants Development hosted a series of three interactive grant-writing workshops for faculty in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) disciplines. These National Science Foundation (NSF) Interactive Web-Based Workshops (IWBWs) were developed for community colleges by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Louisiana State University, and NSF. The workshops are a direct change that was made as a result of assessment findings. In this case, the Office of Grants Development's Unit Review pointed to the need for significant faculty professional development and support in order to increase the pool