

The College participated in a meeting hosted by the Department of Defense (DOD) that presented information on a new online college advisement tool. This tool, called the Degree Program Management Tool, will be the newest item in the suite of services that reside on the Go Army Ed Website. This tool has been designed to streamline the College search and advisement process for active duty soldiers and reservists. Suffolk will take the necessary steps to: (1) review and update our profile on the Go Army Ed site, and (2) upload the data requested by the DOD to the new Degree Program Management Tool. Our presence and participation in this new site will help demonstrate our continued commitment to providing exceptional service to our students that are Veterans. It will also make the College and its academic programs highly visible to active military members looking to further their education.

The College's Office of Media Services produced a series of Veterans videos entitled, "*Transitions: Veterans on Campus.*" The series has seven parts and features content that is both informational and educational. You can access the video series from the College's home page by clicking on the "View SCCC Videos" link.



Suffolk student Fabrizio Bustos, a U.S. Army Combat Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, addressed Veterans, community leaders and corporate partners at the United Way's Earth Day graduation in April. He joined fellow Veterans to celebrate the graduating class of VetsBuild, a partnership program with United Way of Long Island that helps Veterans find employment opportunities in the green construction industry in areas such as energy efficiency, renewables, weatherization, HVAC and Energy-Star construction and home restoration.

A search to fill the new position of College Director of Veterans Affairs was completed with the selection of Shannon O'Neill. Ms. O'Neill was formerly in charge of Veterans Affairs at St. Joseph's College. I was pleased to accept the recommendation to include student veterans in the search process.

The College has once again been cited as a "Military Friendly" institution, reflecting our commitment to providing the best possible services to student Veterans and active military members.

I am very proud to report that we received a major gift from the Island Outreach Foundation in recognition of our efforts to support Veterans. Our selection was based upon our commitment to establishing a Veterans Resource Center that would serve as a single point of contact and support for Veterans across the College, as well as our willingness to create a new College Director of Veterans Affairs position.

Suffolk alumnus Charles Taylor '11 returned to the Ammerman Campus in March, as part of the Soldiers Project of Long Island, a free confidential therapy program for post- 9/11 Veterans and their loved ones. Charles spoke about his personal experience as a student veteran at Suffolk, his military background as a paratrooper, and the difficulties that student Veterans face as they transition from service member to college student. Charles welcomed the opportunity to engage with our faculty and staff, shared his expertise on how to address the unique needs of student Veterans in the classroom and agreed to serve as an ongoing resource for the College.

