SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Evan Feliciano shows off the card given to students performing acts of kindness.

student Evan Feliciano, 21, is asking fellow students to “pay it forward” in a campuswide initiative promoting positivity for the holiday season.

Earlier this month, Feliciano and his team of 15 other students began passing out S.H.A.R.K cards, an acronym for Students Here Are Really Kind, and also the school mascot. The card recognizes those who have performed an act of kindness, and asks them to pass the cards along when they see other good deeds performed on campus.

Feliciano got the idea for the S.H.A.R.K movement after reading about Rachel’s Challenge, a nonprofit honoring Rachel Scott, 17, who was killed in the Columbine High School shootings in 1999.

“We’re looking for people who perform simple acts of kindness, like holding the door for someone else or reaching out to new students who may feel alone,” Feliciano said. “Doing little things really add up, and increase positivity.”

Feliciano, who is a member of the student government and on the student activities board at the Michael J. Grant campus in Brentwood, is working with school officials and other campus groups to continue the movement on a larger scale.

“From my perspective, I think it’s really important for students at any college to make connections with others,” said Lisa Hamilton, director of campus activities and student leadership development at SCCC.

Feliciano is reaching out to other student groups, and bringing people together.

So far, Feliciano and his team have distributed 1,000 cards on the 10,000-student campus. The group is also developing a digital S.H.A.R.K campaign, featuring photos, demonstrating acts of kindness to be shown on campus media. That campaign is to launch in the spring, Hamilton said.

“This program has really blossomed under Evan’s guidance,” she said. “It’s a beautiful thing to see.”

— AMY ONORATO

BRENTWOOD

Movement inspires good deeds on SCCC campus

Suffolk County Community College

— DEBORAH S. MORRIS

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER

Open house to highlight plan for school renovations

Shoreham-Wading River school district officials invite residents to tour the Miller Avenue School tonight and meet officials to discuss next month’s vote on the district’s proposed $33.5 million facilities improvement bond.

The bond would help pay for a $48.5 million project to fix leaky roofs, add parking spaces, replace windows, upgrade electrical systems, reconstruct masonry, remove portable classrooms and build new classrooms at four instructional buildings and a fitness center.

In addition, athletic facilities such as new tennis courts and running tracks would be added at the high school and middle school, officials said.

The district plans to tap about $15 million in unused state aid to reduce the bond cost to $33.5 million. An additional $16 million in state aid is expected to help pay off the bond, officials said.

The bond would raise taxes by less than $360 a year for a home assessed at $400,000, school board president William McGrath said. The district includes residences in the towns of Riverhead and Brookhaven.

McGrath said district buildings are 45 to 60 years old, and many have their original roofs, boilers and heating systems.

“These buildings are in a state where a lot of work needs to be done, a lot more than we can put into budgets,” he said.

The tour is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Miller Avenue School, 3 Miller Ave., Shoreham, followed by a 7 p.m. meeting at which district officials will discuss the bond vote.

Voting is 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Jan. 13 at Shoreham-Wading River High School, 250A Route 25A, Shoreham.

— CARL MAGOWAN

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