

PRESIDENTS' FORUM

Through Education, Comes Transformation and Economic Empowerment



Shaun L. McKay, Ed. D., President

Now in its 57th year, **Suffolk County Community College** is a vibrant and continuously improving higher education resource. As the College's President, I have consistently shared my belief that education transforms lives by empowering individuals. So, it is imperative that Suffolk offer programs corresponding to the employment opportunities currently available. This means we are always:

- Updating curriculum with the assistance of our industry Advisory Boards, linking academic programs with regional professionals practicing in the field;
- Investing in facilities that offer instructional experiences and equipment that our graduates will encounter in the workplace;
- Offering flexible programs that accommodate people at different stages of their career.

Affordable, high quality education and training are essential to our region and to preparing individuals for competitive careers. Whether you start with the goal of transferring to a four-year institution after graduation or you need certain classes to enhance your career skills, you will find everything you need to succeed here at Suffolk.

With an enrollment of over 26,000 students and faculty and staff numbering over 3,000, we are also advancing a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the

institution. From the Board's decision to add diversity as a strategic institutional goal within the College's strategic plan, to our participation in the national Achieving the Dream initiative, we are dedicated to building an appreciation of the many facets of difference that exist within the college community and are reflective of Suffolk County.

Suffolk is recognized nationally for its Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), CSTEP and STEP programs. Through National Science Foundation and State Education Department-funded programs, we provide academic support services and real-world experiences for an increasing population of STEM scholars. In addition, our students have received prestigious research internships at federal lab facilities across the country.

The College also awards more than \$600,000 in scholarships annually. One of our major scholarship programs is the Stay on Long Island Initiative (SoLII). Since my launch of SoLII in 2010, partnering institutions of higher education have awarded 168 scholars \$4.3 million in scholarships, enabling them to complete their education on Long Island.

Lots of exciting things are happening here at Suffolk. We are constructing a new Health and Wellness Facility at the Eastern Campus in Riverhead, a new Learning Resource Center and a new Renewable Energy/STEM Center at the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood, which will be home for new academic initiatives being developed in Energy Management, Sustainability studies, and Cybersecurity.

I encourage you to enroll at Suffolk. Almost one in four students who graduate from a Suffolk County high school do and you should too! There is no doubt we are the best choice for your first two years of higher education.

