

Thomas F. Barraga
Suffolk County Legislator
187 Sunrise Highway, Suite C
West Islip, New York 11795
(P) 631-854-4100
(F) 631-854-4103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: September 21, 2015
CONTACT: Megan Ockovic
E-Mail: Megan.Ockovic@suffolkcountyny.gov



NEWS FROM THE 11TH DISTRICT

Suffolk County Residents Deserve Suffolk County University

By: Suffolk County Legislator Tom Barraga

It is time for Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) to become Suffolk County University (SCU). Suffolk County residents, who live in one of the most expensive areas of the nation, would greatly benefit from a public university that will provide quality education at an affordable price. While we have SUNY Stony Brook here in Suffolk County, the number of applicants, approximately 33,500 per year, far exceeds the number of available seats.

SCCC has, for many years, successfully met students' needs for a quality education at an affordable price for two year Associates Degree programs. With three beautiful campuses, Michael J. Grant, Ammerman and Eastern, approximately 26,000 undergraduate students, 475 full time faculty, and 1,289 adjunct faculty and over 70 academic programs, the leadership and facilities at SCCC are in place to offer a four-year Baccalaureate program. Students, if given the opportunity, would stay an additional two years to earn their Bachelor's degree in one of the many programs that SCU would offer. SCU's Baccalaureate program, with an annual tuition comparable to SUNY tuition, would affectively save students tens of thousands of dollars in education costs and reduce overall higher education loan debt for Suffolk County residents.

SCU would be a leading institution by offering a way for Long Island's young, talented men and women to stay here for their education instead of incurring large debt when transferring to a four-year college in order to earn their Bachelor's degree. With the right leadership, Suffolk County has a golden opportunity to establish one of the finest and largest public universities in the State of New York.

Suffolk County's young men and women deserve quality education at an affordable price. They deserve Suffolk County University.