

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore**  
325 Middle Country Road, Suite 3  
Selden, NY 11784  
Contact: Lauren Auerbach  
Phone: 631-854-9292  
*E-mail: [Lauren.auerbach@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:Lauren.auerbach@suffolkcountyny.gov)*



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**LEGISLATOR TOM MURATORE'S HELPFUL HINTS FOR PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS**

This is the time of year where many parents are preparing to send their children off to college, some for the first time. While it is an exciting time in the life of a young person, there are many details to consider which can add emotion and stress into the mix. Here are some helpful money and time-saving tips to make the transition a little bit smoother, for both parent and child:

1. Book holiday flights NOW! If your student attends a university that requires travel by airplane, it is best to plan ahead and make travel arrangements in advance to secure flights at a reasonable fare. Most colleges have the academic calendar posted on their

- website to help you choose the appropriate travel dates. Also, if this is your child's senior year, find out commencement dates and book a hotel room NOW. Those dates sell out quickly!
2. Don't pay full price for textbooks. Once your student knows which books he or she needs, look on websites such as Half.com or addall.com to get the best price available on quality used books. It is helpful to know the ISBN#. Additionally, when the semester ends, selling the old books on Half.com normally yields a better price than selling it back to the college bookstore. An alternative would be to look into digital text books as well for Kindle or Ipad.
  3. As soon as your student gets the name of their roommate, they should connect immediately to coordinate the list of necessary appliances. This will avoid buying doubles on items that can be shared, such as a television or microwave oven, and will be that much less you will need to lug on moving-in day.
  4. Banking and finances can be a headache if you do not plan ahead. Whenever possible, find a bank that has branches both in your home area and near the university. Online transfers will be much easier, and your child won't get bombarded with those non-bank ATM fees when accessing cash.
  5. For students attending college far from home, look into the availability of storage facilities for the summer months. With current fuel prices, it could be more cost effective to store items than bring them back and forth each year, especially if you share the expense with another student.
  6. Many universities don't allow freshmen to bring their automobiles on campus. Check with your insurance company to see if you qualify for a reduced premium if your child leaves their car home.