

EDUCATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Education & Information Technology Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on May 29, 2012.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Sarah S. Anker, Chairwoman
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Vice Chair
Leg. Thomas Cilmi
Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman
Leg. Thomas Muratore

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
William Shilling, Aide to Leg. Anker
Chris DeLuca, Aide to Leg. Cilmi
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
Dr. Shaun McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College
Chris Adams, Executive Assistant/SCCC
John Lombardo, SCCC
Mary Lou Araneo, Vice President/SCCC
Kevin Peterman, SCCC
Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman
Rick Brand, Newsday
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Paul Perillie, Aide to Leg. Horsley

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Will the members of the Education, Information Technology please come to the horseshoe. We're going to begin in about two minutes.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:04 PM

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Okay, we're going to begin our Committee. Let's rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Schneiderman.

SALUTATION

Please remain standing for a moment of silent meditation as we think of those in need, especially those in the military.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

Thank you.

PUBLIC PORTION

Okay, we have one card for Public Portion. Kevin Peterman, would you like to come up to the podium?

MR. PETERMAN:

Thank you. I just wanted to come up and just say thank you for your past support. I know the budgets have been difficult. And I know this is an extremely difficult year, but I just want to thank you for your support and hope we can count on you for whatever support you can give us this year. That's all. Just want to say thanks, because I know many times we don't get to thank you's. So, I appreciate your support.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Thank you. Thank you for your comments.

PRESENTATION

Today we have a presentation by Suffolk Community College regarding their budget. We have Dr. Shaun McKay, President. Thank you for coming here today.

DR. McKAY:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Would you like to introduce the people that are with you, please?

DR. McKAY:

Thank you. And I think at this point first before I get into the presentation I want to thank the men and women that have served admirably for this country and given us the freedoms that we so enjoy and a privilege -- so, I want to make sure I get it on the record from the College and our Board of Trustees and Faculty, that we thank them as well.

With me to my extreme left is my Executive Assistant Chris Adams, who, you know, has been working with all of you and myself moving forward and has done a great job. I got him from Hofstra, and it was a national search, and we got a local guy here and he's doing a great job for me.

To my immediate left is John Lombardo, who, again, another steal for the College; very, very well known in Workforce Industry and has done a lot in regard to advancing manufacturing and a lot of things that we have done. And he oversees a program that brings in federal grants locally here to Long Island and to help keep business and industry here. And he was a key player in bringing a few folks in regards to business and industry to Long Island.

To my right is Mary Lou Araneo. And she's the face and the voice of the College. I'm the President, but certainly Mary Lou carries the torch in regards to the message that we distribute. And certainly Mary Lou is my right side because that's, you know, where I see her in regards to the Administration.

Let me just thank you first and foremost. We've all been reading the press and we've seen, you know, the information. We've been before all of you and we've seen where you are in regards to the County. Certainly, and I've said this before -- and I'll go through a presentation -- I have two presentations, by the way: One which will take you through where we are as a system, what we've done. And then I'll take you through what the future may bring. And that's where John will come in in regards to Workforce Economic Development.

PRESENTATION SLIDE SHOW

Right now where we are looking at the system -- we've been looked at as a college in regards to inspiring and transforming lives, working with students through the system, meeting regional workforce needs. And we've been asked about that quite often by a number of business and industries folks. And we are very responsive to that. And that's the one thing that we have been heard about in regards to the Community College, is very nimble. We're able to respond very quickly to that.

In regards to Suffolk, we've said this more than once, the numbers are there. We're the largest college in the State; the entire State. We are your Community College. We serve your residents. We serve our students. And we also serve employees that reside in your districts right here on Long Island. Over 3,000 employees. So, what we have is a total of approximately 30,000 individuals right here at Suffolk County Community College.

Outside of that what we have is, again, over 10,000 credit and non-credit individuals that come through us. That's an astonishing number. Again, what we have above that is over 100,000 alumni; over 100,000. Think of the students who transfer without graduating and that's an even larger number than the 100,000 you'll see right here. In 50 years what we've done is graduate a lot of your residents, a lot of your constituents, we got them into jobs. They got back into the economy; they're paying taxes; they're spending in each of your Districts. And what we've done is to respond to business and industry needs in every one of the Districts, in all 18 in the County.

Nationally what we've done, nationally, again, we've been recognized nationally for our STEM Programs, our manufacturing programs. We are driving the discussion right here on Long Island in regards to what's happening in manufacturing, what's happening here in science, technology, engineering and math. Our Automotive Program has brought in national folks right here to Long Island. Verizon has training right here at Suffolk County. We have addressed the workforce sector and we've addressed the academic sector in regards to our students transferring. And I'll speak more about that later.

Workforce needs: We've been asked to help identify trends and help identify the next genesis in regards to workforce development for the County and, I believe, for the State. Later you'll see that I've been appointed to several State panels and several National panels and, you know, while I'm

trying to keep my footprint here on Long Island, I think having a voice nationally and statewide helps bring the focus back to Long Island as it should be.

We talk a lot about Cold Spring Harbor and Brookhaven National Lab. Well, you know what? Most of my students transfer and most of my students do summer internships right there at those labs, right there at Brookhaven and right there at Stony Brook. Our students transfer -- over about 1500 students, I believe, at this point to Stony Brook. Right here, you know. And I'll get into a little bit later developing the pipeline. We talk about the brain-drain on Long Island. I'll get into that, too, a little bit later. The brain-drain on Long Island in regards to folks that are leaving Long Island, not contributing to the local economy, not remaining here on the Island, may go off to a college or university, North Carolina, New Paltz, Upstate and not return.

What we have to do is to incentivize that, but not cost the County anything at all. So, I work with Presidents here on Long Island to offer our graduates and your residents a full-time scholarship to stay here. And we call it Stay On Long Island. We have about \$1.5 million in that as we speak at this point. And that's going to increase as we go forward.

These are the folks that we talk about when it comes to key partnerships on Long Island, key partnerships in the State. And I don't want to read them directly off for you, but, again, they're quite extensive. It's not exhaustive at this point in regards to us listing them all, because there's a lot of them. But it's important for us to, at least, talk a little bit about the regional economic workforce. You look at the industries that we serve. I recently spoke to the LIA at an Economic Development Forum where that was the first group that was -- and, Legislator Anker, you were there and you saw us speaking on the importance of Suffolk County Community College.

At this point, again, you know, the K-12 system, we've talked a lot about the K-12 system in regards to partnering with them. I have some slides on that, which we'll get to in a few minutes.

The Mechatronics Grant, I'll ask John Lombardo to speak briefly on the Mechatronics Grant and the TEAM Grant and the Power Grant because John was very instrumental in all three of those projects. John.

MR. LOMBARDO:

Yes. Good afternoon, everyone. The Mechatronics Grant was received in November of 2005. It was a result of New York State and some local not-for-profits doing a Skill Gap Analysis. That was called Career Ladders. In that study we determined the industries and the skills needed to sustain the manufacturing economy on Long Island and our training was developed to meet and exceed those skill gaps.

In addition to that, it was the Foundation Study that enabled us to work with the State and the County to build a Manufacturing Training Center, which has now become Workforce Development Training Center. During that process we determined that in addition to the generic skill gaps required in manufacturing to be a vibrant industry, we also found out that there were very skilled specific equipment problems that were needed, specifically welding, quality control and machining.

To that end we filed for a second grant of approximately \$1.7 million. We were awarded the Federal DOL Grant for that. And since then, as a matter of fact the end of March we completed our work on that grant training approximately 300-plus workers, certified them to national standards in both machining to National Institute of Manufacturing Science, NIMS Standard, as well as AWS, which is American Welding Society Standards. So our participants in those certification programs are receiving national credentials that are usable anywhere in the country but certainly we hope to keep them here.

In addition to that, we have a Power Grant, which, again, Suffolk County Community College is

ahead of the curve relative to anticipating needs in a renewable energy arena. These were skills that do not exist regionally in terms of training workers in installation of solar equipment, in terms of troubleshooting that equipment, in terms of interfacing with the Smart Grid and Smart Meter. So, the Power Grant, like the -- unlike the Manufacturing Grant was more foundation building in terms of preparing workers for the emerging industry of energy. And we continue to work that Grant and continue to train baseline workers.

DR. McKAY:

Thanks, John. The other important part of that is that over 160 companies I represented right here on Long Island benefitted from these programs. And what we continue to do is, and I mentioned this before, is that we've written grants that would defer an expenditure for Long Island firms right here, where those firms are going to receive benefits. We have certain banks that we'll go through and receive customer service training, the corporate training side. We've done all of that. Just to make sure that our business and industry will be able to succeed right here on Long Island and to receive, again, either State or Federal Grants, and that's an entire area under Vice President {Derangeo} that we are focusing on working with John Lombardo and Mary Lou Araneo on the Title Three Grants, on the Title Four Grants, on the Federal Grants. They try to move that forward.

What you're looking at right now is, again, is a small glimpse of where we are in regards our grant funding. We've always come before you and talk about the value of your investment to the College. What we've done is to go out and write Federal grants and to bring in Federal grants right here to Long Island.

On the first slide -- well, this slide, you'll see that the -- look at the number of trainees that we got through -- I'll just mention it -- through Mechatronics, over 300 individuals we've trained; over 300. And where did the funding come from? The Federal Government. Over 300. Look at the other grants. Again, a total of 435. When you go through -- look at the TEAM Grant, 1.6 million, 229. Look at the Power Grant, again \$1.8 million, Federal grant. And we've trained employees and we've trained unemployed workers, dislocated workers right here on Long Island and got them back into the workforce.

So, again, if you go through and you look again, you know, what we've done to date on average, 3.4, 3.5, \$4 million, it's to write Federal grants and to write State grants and to write grants to get employees and to get companies access -- access to employees that would have been, you know, out in the system that could not have produced, to help bring back into the economy recurring revenues. And that's what we've done.

We've talked about this before. We have the largest Nursing Program in the State, the largest, over 900 students. We graduate over 250, 300 students in nursing every year; Every year. When you look at the expansion of nursing and you look at what we've done in regards to the Culinary Arts Program, that program in the first year, we should have gotten only 100 students. We got 400 in the first year. And what we've done in essence, instead of those students leaving Long Island, we work with SUNY Delphi to say, "if you can come to Long Island and we can offer our students and your residents an opportunity to have their four-year Baccalaureate Degree right here and not leave Long Island", and that's the whole Stay On Long Island Initiative, they're right here. And we offer that on Long Island as well, SUNY Delhi, right on the Eastern Campus on the East End. And that's what we do.

When you look at the HVAC/R, Manufacturing, the Health Information Technology -- Health Information Technology, we partnered with Northern Virginia Community College. And we brought in \$1 million right here, so we can then do what? Medical transcription, health information technology and all those programs right here on Long Island. Again, another area we've been working on grants, our Paramedics. I believe we have over maybe, 123, 124 different Paramedic Districts on Long Island. In regards to accrediting those programs, there is no program on Long

Island accredited to provide service to that body. And we just started that program this past -- this Fall we started that. We did have an EMT Program before. Now we're going to go fully into the accredited program moving forward.

MR. LOMBARDO:

You always have to get permission to make a point (laughter), but one of the things that, I think, is very important to note relative to these programs developed with Federal funds delivered regionally, is that those curriculums are here, they're vibrant, they're constantly upgraded and will be available to all of the returning soldiers that are coming back over the next three years. We've fine tuned the programs for a quicker delivery, to train the soldiers and get them back into the system as quickly as possible. It's also important to note we currently have over 600 veterans on all three campuses and recently 10 percent of that population graduated this past week.

DR. McKAY:

The broader part of what John just mentioned is that as we assess our students and we better understand our student population, we have to be responsive to our own internal changes that are happening with regards to our student base and our student population. We are seeing more Veterans now applying and attending Suffolk County Community College, ever than we've had in our history. What we will do in return?

Well, you know, part of my goal as President, which I have, you know, as John Lombardo and Tom Coleman, is to oversee a program at the College for our Veterans. Because what we saw last year, last Fall, was many students who enrolled that couldn't receive Veterans benefits to pay for their tuition and fees, or books, or whatever it may be. And what we've done, there's a time where you have to de-schedule folks who don't pay to attend the College. And we determined that it was not the appropriate thing to do for our Veterans who were there at the College at the time so we did not de-schedule them. It was not considered professional treatment because we knew they were going to get their benefits anyway.

And we've had, you know, paperwork through the system and we knew that that was going to happen. So, we did not treat them any differently than any other students. But we made appropriate recommendations then. But the problem is this: We did not have -- we didn't have an office, we didn't have counselors, we didn't have staff in place at the time to really work with that group because we haven't seen that many Veterans coming back to us as they have. Now in the future, would that happen even more? Yeah, you know. And what will we do as a College? We have to respond to that appropriately. So, John is hitting on a point that, I think, is very important with our returning Veterans. And I think certainly our programs at the College will benefit them as well.

The Committee on Remediation at the State level, I've been appointed to that Committee. There was a press release on that, I believe, yesterday?

MS. ARANEO:

Yes.

DR. McKAY:

In regards to looking at remediation. We've talked about that extensively so I wouldn't get into that area. The Long Island Regional Advisory Committee on Education, we are also on that Committee. We have all these committees to advance teaching and learning from Suffolk County Community College, your College. So, our footprint is all over the map in regards to serving on a number of committees on Long Island and, of course, the State.

John, do you want to speak on the manufacturing economy?

MR. LOMBARDO:

Yes, I do. One of the things that Dr. McKay and I talked about several years ago when we were working on the Grant Campus together was in order to sustain the manufacturing talent we need regionally, we have to have a pipeline for that. And the best way to do that would be to install these academies in the high schools; very difficult process with budgets, very difficult budget process since Long Island for many years has moved away from a vocational mentality, but we currently have three academies that we've established.

The first one was Three Village. Second one most recently was Bay Shore. And last week we secured for the Fall Deer Park Schools. And what we do is we take the original curriculum, the five modular curriculum from the Mechatronics Program and we teach the high school technical teachers how to deliver it. We provide them with all the curriculum, all the exams, all the assessments, everything they need and then stay in touch with them relative to introducing them to the variety of industries available from a cosmetics industry to an aerospace and defense industry. We leave no industry unturned so that they have alternative career paths based on their interest and their talent.

And what we've received back from industry has been a terrific response relative to opening their doors, allowing the students to come in, see the products being made and talk to engineering, development, sales, marketing so that they can see regardless of their interest level, there's a place for them in our industry.

DR. McKAY:

Our Transfer Programs, again, we have Transfer Programs with many institutions right here on Long Island across the country. My goal is to keep most of the students right here. We mentioned before our Joint Admission Agreements. I'm not sure I have a slide on that one, but under Joint Agreements, Long Island University, for example, they're out on the Eastern Campus right now, physically located on the Eastern Campus. They do pay us rent. They do pay lease. They do pay sewer, water treatment, all of that, they pay for utilities right on the Eastern Campus.

I've begun discussions at the last Board Meeting with our Trustees in regard to having them expand their footprint to the Grant Campus. They were the first institution that joined us on the Stay on Long Island Initiative and have given us, you know, our students extensive scholarships to stay right here on Long Island. We are working right now with Long Island University to have a facility placed on the Michael J. Grant Campus that we would have access to between eight and four PM, no cost to the College. They're going to pay the lease, they're going to pay the ground rent, they're going to pay sewer, water and all of those. And that's going to be a facility that's positioned on the Grant Campus. That's a public/private partnership, again, bringing more revenue, bringing more business into the County; and at the same time keeping students from leaving Suffolk County to go either into Nassau or somewhere else. So, we're expanding the footprint in regards to business and industry.

Our Stay on Long Island Initiative, I mentioned it briefly before, many of your residents, many, are receiving a scholarship that I crafted back in 2010 when I was inaugurated as President. And many of you were there at the inauguration ceremony when I said "we got to keep our best and brightest right here on Long Island." So on the corporate training side, on the Workforce Development side, I have John Lombardo overseeing an entire area to directly impact business and industry.

On the R & D and the STEM side, what have we done? Well, we're keeping folks right here on Long Island. These are scholarships that parents and your residents don't have to pay at all. Our students are graduating now and this helps the completion agenda in regards to graduating students out of college, getting more students into college and graduating them and having them transfer and getting them a Baccalaureate Degree at no cost. Some of these scholarships are worth 30 to \$40,000 a year; 30 to 40,000. And we've gotten so far residents that are attending all of those campuses that you've seen highlighted here at no cost.

So, the first two years we've held -- well, I'll get to that later. But we've held the line on tuition and fees. The final two years, they're getting it free, you know, they're getting it free. And it doesn't cost anything at all. But to the institutions that are receiving them, they're receiving students and residents from this Island that really, you know, have performed at the very highest levels. Those students will have to have at least a 3.75 GPA; a 3.75 GPA. And they're getting a free ride, you know. So, again, what we've done is we're addressing the agenda and mission of the College on a number of fronts.

What have we done in regards to economic impact? In the first box you'll notice \$127 million economic activity that we infuse every year. To the left -- and are the direct results of that? \$754 million in regional income; \$754 million. You look in the bottom right, the total economic impact, over \$800 million every single year. And that's what Suffolk does with this local economy.

In regards to our enrollment, I mentioned before we're the largest in the State of New York. If you take a look at the charts, you can see where we've started and where we are. In 2006-07, you know, 21,000. Look at 2011: 25,310. These are residents that we are moving in the direction, yes, we talked about out-of-county, we're keeping residents in county by looking at that. But could we do more? Absolutely. And that's why we're serving -- and I'll speak to that in a minute in regards to out-of-county surveys.

In regards to the Operating Budget, the one thing that we've all dealt with, you look at the expenditures, and I'm certain that you share the same burdens we do. We're not an agency of the County, but certainly we do -- as a sponsor, we do carry some of the same categories. But look at the retirement expenses. We're projecting over a million dollars in 2013 in salary requirements.

I want to publicly thank all of the faculty association. I want to thank the Guild of Administrative Offices. I want to thank all exempt administrators and very shortly we'll have AME, I believe, in the past contract, you know, all in agreement here. But when you look at the health -- look at the healthcare expenses -- on the healthcare, when we have a retiree and -- you know, we are thankful for all of our retirees because they've served admirably in 20 years, 30 years, 40 years in the system, and they retire, certainly they're going to maintain pension benefits, they're going to maintain healthcare benefits moving forward.

If I backfill those positions, I'm now adding another person into that system that would have healthcare and everything else and pension-related costs into the system. Look at revenue. State Aid. We advocated for, and I'm thankful to the Chancellor and Chairman McCall, for asking me to represent all 30 community colleges in Albany. And we're able to get \$3 million to us directly in regard to State Aid.

In regards to tuition and fees, we saw a 1.5 percent decline in enrollment this current year. Things are changing in the economy, things are changing in the environment. And they are having a direct impact on us in regards to revenue.

We end up with a budget gap of about \$5.6 million. How do we fix that? How do we adjust and how do we address that? Under the College Response Category, you'll notice that, again, with the Faculty, the Guild, the Exempts, having zero's in regards to no cost on the COLA side, the Cost of Living side, we were able to realize some -- about one million, I believe, about another 1.8 million in the Plus Two. In the Plus Twos, I want to explain that a minute. Plus Two means that we're adding two students per section. Two students per section, not in remedial, not in sciences, not in the computer areas, but in basic foundation courses. And that has enabled us to get \$1.8 million. I did an analysis of that. And there was no impact on performance for students at all by adding two students to a section. That contract runs through 2015. And the first time in the history of the College, we were able to meet with our unions, open the contract and be able to work our way through that.

I also asked for a -- I call it -- it's a one-shot. I asked the Department to take a 2.5 percent reduction in operating costs. That also gave us another -- about 3.9, \$3.5 million. That right there closed the gap. And we were not able to even come back to the County to ask for any assistance at all.

On this chart what you would notice here, if you look at where we were at 2,675 hours per base FTE, that was years ago; many, many years ago. Where are we now in regards to base aid and support from the State? You know, we went down to 21, 22 from 2,675 base aid for FTE. That cost has to be mitigated somewhere in our budget; somewhere. So, we have to mitigate those costs ourselves.

Now, when you look at the full-time fall FTE tuition from last year, I came before this body and I've asked for support. And we had a one percent support from this body to keep tuition at 3,990. Based on what I just showed on the prior slide of \$5.6 million gap, we aren't asking for any support from the County this year because we understand where you are. And we wanted to keep our students right here on Long Island. So, we've mitigated those costs by our contracts, then we look forward two years and mitigated all those factors now.

Next year, you ask me what I can do next year? We got to work on that starting right now. Because we got to look forward into next year. We can't look back; we got to look forward. When you look at this chart right here, look at the tuition rates. From \$3100 up to 3,990. And look at the rise. And right now for the first time I must say that we are not increasing tuition on all students, on our residents, because we got to keep right them right here in Suffolk County. And that's my commitment to you, to try to work on that. Our Board of Trustees have been committed to this. And we were able to deliver that this year thanks to you and those around the horseshoe that helped us last year, to the Faculty Association, to the Guild and others who helped us to realize that and to exempts as well.

Here's a chart that really tells the story. 52 percent is what our students are carrying right now in regards to the cost of this institution; 52 percent. Because of the actions we've taken, we've come back to 51 percent for the next year that we're proposing. But at the same time, it's not enough. Now, the State this year, because of the actions we've taken, we've now gotten \$3 million from the State this year to help us out. Next year we got to go back to work again. And next year starts right now. Next year starts right now for us to work with the State to try to get funding to help offset where we are going.

Our State share is at 25 percent. Our County share 23 percent. In our Capital Budget, infrastructure improvements, our Capital Program requires us to -- the State requires us to at least have the County submit, you know, its commitment prior to the State having to make its own commitment to our Capital Programs. We are competing against 29 other institutions and 34 State operations of which, you know, you got the adtechs and the four-year operations, you got everyone else out there competing.

What we have to do is we -- we must get your commitment first and then we submit. And then that must be done in a timely manner. And we've managed our programs. We've submitted our programs on time. And what we've gotten instead is the State responding appropriately. When you look at the Health and Wellness Facility in Riverhead, there's no other facility like this in Riverhead, none. There's no program on the East End like this. Our economic development opportunities on the East End would certainly be enhanced and would bring revenue back to the County in a number of ways. And we've seen that. And there's a footprint for that at the Grant Campus with that local facility. So you can see that as well. And, you know, I can take questions on that later.

The Learning Resource Center in Brentwood, we've never had a facility at that Campus that can host that many students. We have 9,500 students right now in Brentwood. What we have on that campus in the first place are buildings that we've inherited and we've tried to put the library into

those facilities. We just had a pipe that got -- erupted on that campus. It was above the books and above our students. And when that erupted, I think, Kevin Peterman is here, was about 60 to \$100,000 just to have that repaired. And then we had the books and all of that. And the location was not suited for a library. It was not built that way.

So, now this is the first time we're going to have a freestanding location on that campus. The Science and Technology Building at Ammerman, in 52 years we've never had a new building on that Campus. We never had it. We absorbed buildings that were there. We have retrofitted the buildings as we should, but we've never had a freestanding building on that campus brand new at all. So, again, you know, that's the Science Technology Building.

Now, what have we seen with the County Executive and we have seen with the budget? They've deleted the construction equipment for Kreiling Hall, construction equipment for the Health and Wellness Facility out East, the project delays that are being mentioned right here, which you have, with you at this point. Now those already receive funding in the State Program. They received design funding. And, again, those projects are germane to the advancement of economic development and advancement of the programs that we have at the College at this point.

When you look at the new project request, and there's only three of them, one is a safety and security project, which is the traffic circle. We've had numerous accidents at the traffic circle right on Campus. Not off Campus, but on Campus. Because you got a blind spot. And you have a slope on the blind spot. You have accidents that are happening all the time. And we call County Offices onto the Campus to handle those accidents.

When you look at the plant operations, building at the Michael J. Grant Campus, that building was acquired when we first moved onto that Campus. It is not ADA compliant. (Off the microphone) And that building pretty much, you know, it's in a position right now where we have to be concerned about -- in moving forward operating in that facility.

On the Eastern Campus, we don't have -- we don't have a warehouse on the Eastern Campus at all. We're acquiring equipment on that Eastern Campus. But, again, they're outdoors and they're open to the elements. And that's what that building is about.

Our budget, our budget, if you take a look at where we are right now in 2011, we're at \$187 million. In '11/'12 on our adopted, we're at \$195 million. In 1213, look at where we are. It's \$193 million. Okay? So we've taken the appropriate steps to mitigate the increasing costs that we are faced with by working with our unions, by working with our faculty and staff and everyone else at the College, to mitigate some of those costs. So in essence, instead of coming to the County with no change, we've taken our hard decisions ourselves and we've mitigated that this year. And that's the result. \$193 million proposed for next year, over \$195 million this year.

That's the end of our presentation. I know it's a bit long, but there's one piece I want to share with you, which is, really, you know, you can't end without talking about the future. There is a proposal that we've developed -- well, here it is.

VIDEO SHOW PRESENTATION

MR. LOMBARDO:

We would just like to mention that this is a project that's been evolving for several years; part of our charge to get ahead of industry, to look at an emerging industry and what that industry has to offer the economy.

This particular building, what's so unique about it, besides the Smart House and besides the fact that we have opportunities for solar programs, for curriculum development and most importantly a partnership with Stony Brook, who does a wonderful job on the research side, and what we would do is engage industry on the practical application of that product so that we can build that project locally and support a growing energy industry.

At this point in time we have presented this to many public and private arenas. We have tremendous support right now from the US Green Building Council on Long Island, Vince {Compania} and Rudy {Holesek} in particular. We have worked with United Ways Youth Built, very closely with Teresa (Rignanti) to provide stackable credentials for her students and keeping those students on Long Island. It's one of the most integrated approaches to education and economic development, I think, you've seen in a long, long time and we're committed to make it happen. It's a partnership with the region, the needs of this region.

And just a quick note, I have recently engaged with a wind turbine company that builds a vertical wind turbine, made all of composites, lightweight, very high energy. And within the next three months the first prototype will appear at one of the -- I can't say the name, but one of the Catholic Schools on Long Island is going to have the first prototype. And we've met with them. We've engaged industry partnerships already to produce that locally. Currently it's built in California.

So, I thank you for your time. Any questions, we'll be happy to answer them.

DR. McKAY:

I'd just like to close by saying that I know that this was a very extensive presentation. We look forward to appearing before you, you know, when we have this opportunity. There is so much stories to tell, there is so much for us to say, but it's important for us to hear from you, you know, because we represent business and industry and your constituents. And they come to us all the time for a wide variety of needs. And I do want to thank you for supporting Suffolk County Community College. We are the finest Community College in this State, we're the largest. Not just the largest but we graduated 4,012 students this past commencement period, many of them are in your Districts. And we transferred many more than that. So, thank you and we'll answer any questions you have at this point.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

And I also want to thank you, you know, as Chair of the Education Committee, of all the work that your entire staff has done to create and to actually reach out -- in other words, you're not waiting for something to happen. You are actively pursuing your goals. And that's partnering with other Colleges, with businesses, working even with the Legislature and other entities, government agencies. And I am thoroughly impressed. And I just hope that other people can be -- I always say this, inspired by what you're doing. And I think we're very, very fortunate, especially to have you, Dr. Shaun McKay, as the President, and, again, being asked to be on State and Federal Committees, to find out how we can make our community colleges work better. So, again, I want to thank everybody, you know, here with your presentation. And I'm sure we have some questions from this Committee. Legislator Schneiderman.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

The last project seems very interesting, but I didn't see it in the Capital Program. That's something that is a new initiative and you're going to be coming forth with a Capital Project, trying to secure the State, first I suspect?

DR. McKAY:

Well, it's a reversal. What we try to do, we made it through appropriations in Washington, but it didn't make it into the Budget. We were trying to get it fully federally-funded. Certainly I'm looking

to the State as well. But it is a program that is required by this region. So certainly our goal is to try to get Federal, State, which is a reversal of what we've done with other projects, which is to come 50/50 with the County and the State.

So, we've heard from business and industry about us moving that forward, but we are trying to go the other way around, which is to get Federal assistance and also State assistance to fund that program. And if we can get assistance from you in making that happen, certainly we'll appreciate that.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

No, I mean I'm happy you're not asking for County funding at this point, so. And you have room in there? It sounds like a great project. Certainly, you know, that is a quickly growing section of our economy, more and more homes are turning to solar, more and more businesses, and then wind power, geothermal, all those things. I think there are a lot careers potentially out there. So, if we do some vocational training, people can learn how to install solar panels and maintain that equipment, I think, that would be a very valuable tool, viable career. You have room at Grant Campus to do it?

MR. LOMBARDO:

Yes.

DR. McKAY:

Don't say yes too quick. (Laughter) Certainly, certainly. What we hope to do was, you know, the Grant Campus has been on the forefront of renewable energy training, manufacturing, the HVAC and everything else. And we were hoping to have that building probably placed there, but certainly, you know, we are open to options.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think it would be a nice fit for that Eastern Campus as well. You have a lot -- there's a lot of homes, very large homes. You know, they have a -- LIPA is struggling to meet demand there. They just don't have the infrastructure for the energy consumption on the East End and it might be something worth looking at if Grant doesn't work out.

DR. McKAY:

Yeah, we're going to keep all our options open. As you know, this requires lot of discussions and when it comes to funding, we're going to have to meet with all of our State and local elected officials and look and see where they best fit and programming would occur. And that's something that we're going to have to look at. But, yeah --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

You may also want to look at -- I mean, the solar is probably going to be similar anywhere. But the wind -- there are wind curves that are out there. As you can see -- if you're going to be putting a wind turbine, if you look at the three campuses, you may have issues with the larger turbines, community concerns, if you're too close to housing. So, that's another thing you might want to consider.

MR. LOMBARDO:

I think one of the reasons why we're looking at alternative wind opportunities is exactly that. There are visual environmental impacts of some of the larger turbines. I don't think we ever thought that Long Island -- I mean, so many turbine projects have been rejected. The vertical wind turbine is minimally effective on the environment. And I think once the first prototype goes up, we'll all be invited to visit that and see how it looks and its virtual impact. But it's also very -- very efficient as well.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. Also, you might want to look at where you can connect to the grid because this could be a revenue-producer as well for the College, particularly if you do a large wind turbine.

The other thing I wanted to ask you about, your numbers, I know you had the additional \$3 million, and that's great, in State Aid. But your Operating Budget, it looks like it went down by two million on top of that. So, how did you achieve a \$2 million reduction in your operating costs?

DR. McKAY:

You know, by making painful cuts. You know.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can you tell me a little bit about the nature of some of those cuts you made?

DR. McKAY:

Absolutely. As I mentioned earlier that our Faculty Association reopened their contracts; didn't take any cost-of-living increases for the first two years. And then you have the adjuncts taking theirs this year. We had our middle level administrators taking no cost-of-living. Then we also had the Plus Two, adding two students to classes that were not remedial or the science area. That gave us 1.8 million the first year; 1.6 million the second year. So -- and then -- and then what we did was to delay purchases in the sense of, you know, computers and other areas. And what was important we all had a good winter -- a relatively modest winter, I should say, this past year.

So, in my budget I saw a one million dollar area where we didn't have to expend that because there was no snow cleanups and you didn't pay overtime and all of that. And then the other side is turnover savings. You know, really holding the line on new hires and holding the line on vacant positions. You know, we are a very large and complex institution. So, when you look at all of those elements, we were able to manage that number very efficiently; while at the same time we had to balance for healthcare costs and retirements and the pensions and the payouts. And those SCAT payouts. Our SCAT payouts, again, this year on average, because you have more folks retiring. We have folks who have been 20 years, 30 years, to an extent even 40 years. And we had to pay that out in a lump sum right upfront. So, yeah, we balanced all of that without asking for anything from the County. Could we do that next year again? Well, next year starts right now. It starts -- we got to go back to the drawing board and try to work our way through that for the next year or two, because, I believe, this would be a two-year process.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Is there -- I know the student body size has decreased slightly. Has your faculty size also decreased or is it pretty much the same as it was?

DR. McKAY:

What you have is a couple of things. We have over 1500 adjunct faculty at the College. We have not increased our full-time faculty size. We have not inserted a full-time faculty line in our budget. We've grown, but we've grown -- and I love our adjuncts and, Dr. Horsley, I know that you -- you were an adjunct as well in Farmingdale. We've grown over time.

LEG. HORSLEY:

I was just wondering if I have a conflict.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

He's an adjunct, not at the Community College. (Laughter) Farmingdale, yeah.

DR. McKAY:

I had to make sure that I got off the record there on that one. But, no, no, no, certainly we've grown over time. And you've seen on the charts in regards to our students and what we have done.

But on the other side, we have not asked for, you know, full-time lines or anything in the budget. And what we've done so far is to manage -- if there's a new line in the budget, we've managed that. We have not gone out. And I've held a position open to fill another position somewhere else. So those are the things that we've done at the College.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

First of all, I appreciate that you're not asking the County for any additional funding. And I think that's major at this moment for the County and our fiscal situation really appreciates that. And it sounds like you're doing your best to control costs at the College. And I know you're doing things that are revenue-producing as well. So, you're looking towards projects that will bring in money without having to come to us for money, whether it's renting out facilities or, you know, opening up things to various groups can be revenue-producing. I appreciate that.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Legislator -- I just want to make a quick comment relating to what Legislator Schneiderman had said. Again, what I think what's real in the people's mind is they want to get the biggest bang for the buck. And Suffolk Community College really provides that. It's quality education. And even what's more important is that they have a high opportunity of landing a job. And there's many people, many kids out there that have their four-year degrees and they cannot find a job. And what you're doing right now is focusing on that goal. And I really appreciate that. But -- and, we don't have a lot of time but I have a comment -- I wanted to connect the solar project. And I know we have an issue with enXco. Is there a relationship that you can work with them with this facility? Is there any type of partnership or connection that can be made?

DR. McKAY:

Right now I've asked -- we've had several meetings. In fact, as recently as this week and last week, we've had students that -- student leaders in the Grant Campus that we have brought in; about 40 to 50 students, leaders from the clubs that we have brought in to get their feedback to at least share with them the proposal that was advanced in regards to solar. We will be advancing something to the Board of Trustees imminently in regards to that project. You know, our role, we understand where the County is in this project. And our role is to be a partner with you and to work with you, and at the same time to take into consideration mitigation factors that are on our side of the College before we advance, you know, a proposal that will be mutually beneficial for either side.

So, that's kind of where we are right now. And I have not advanced -- our Board of Trustees have asked us to take a look at this issue and to come back and report back to them. So, publicly I cannot make a statement at this point because we have to collect all of the data and advance that to the Board and hopefully that will be done shortly.

LEG. ANKER:

Well, we really appreciate, you know, what you're doing, especially with this issue which is, you know, a little bit on the challenging side and we will have to think out of the box. But the Legislature is here to support you in whatever we can do to help facilitate this issue, I'm sure more than happy to, across the horseshoe.

Legislator Horsley has a question.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Hello, Dr. McKay. How are you?

DR. McKAY:

Doing well, thank you.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Good, good. Just a couple of quick questions. How'd we do with the reserve fund at this point in time?

DR. McKAY:

Under the reserve fund, we received -- I received about two weeks ago a letter from the State in regards to us having up to at least -- between 10 to 15 percent of our operating funds as part of our reserve. Our budget, as you know this year, was 195 million; went down 193.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

I saw.

DR. McKAY:

And we have \$19 million in our reserve fund. But of that 19 million, one million is set aside for AME settlement in regards to the contract that ended -- that the County and AME, you know, dealt with. And certainly we got to pay that out. So, we're down to \$18 million.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

That's Trustee approved? Is that how that's going to work?

DR. McKAY:

Well, it has to be advanced to the Trustees to get that one million pay out for AME.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Okay.

DR. McKAY:

Now, that brings you down to \$18 million.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Right.

DR. McKAY:

The \$18 million is nowhere close to what's projected in regards to what the State is suggesting that we maintain as part of our Operating Budget. Now, the other side is that in 2007, we were written in by Middle States to say that *you didn't have an appropriate fund balance for your operation*. We've seen last year emergencies that occur back and forth. If we got to go to the Board -- let's say next year our enrollment doesn't come in where it should come in and we have to go fund balance. Well, that's where we may go. But I don't know that just yet. But part of it is this: You have to have those reserves and those are one-shots, you know, you start --

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

I wasn't being mischievous. I wasn't looking for it. You're reading more into my question than I was asking. I think what I was just looking for was, is the fund balance still growing? Because I know that you did have concerns over it. And you're saying it's at 19 and you have one million set aside --

DR. McKAY:

Right.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

-- for next year. So, basically -- I think last year you had what, about 17? So, it has grown, is that --

DR. McKAY:

Well, you don't want to say it's growing. You want to say that we are appropriately addressing and mitigating --

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

How about you're moving in the right direction? (Laughter)

DR. McKAY:

There you go.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Okay. The other question I had quickly was I had heard statistics recently about Veterans going back to school and stuff like that. And that the number of Veterans that actually graduate, because of all sorts of extenuating circumstances, Traumatic Stress Syndrome and a number of things, that their numbers are very, very low of actual completion. How do we look? Are we -- are our statistics better at retraining veterans coming home? You know, how does that -- you know, are we doing there?

DR. McKAY:

Okay. I'd like to ask that we pull that data and get that back to you. Again, it's -- every population, the visits we have, is something that we can cull out and pull very quickly but I don't have it right here.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

You don't have it in there.

DR. McKAY:

No.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

But the national statistics are dreadful. I mean, I heard it, I was like shocked, wow, you know. I don't know, it's like 10 percent graduate ever. You know, they come for a couple of months and they're gone. Maybe because of unemployment opportunities or something like that. I don't know.

DR. McKAY:

Part of that, too, again, you got redeployment issues, you got a lot of stuff happening with families there. And, again, you know, without having that data right before us --

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Yeah. And I just heard the gross number and I was just wondering if we're -- if we've got a better plan, I guess, is what I was looking for. Okay, thank you very much.

DR. McKAY:

I'll get back to you.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay, thank you so much. Is there anybody that has any questions? Okay, I don't see any more questions. Thank you for coming out this morning, this afternoon. If there's anything we can do for you, please don't hesitate to call us. And, you know, again congratulations on the wonderful work that you've been doing. So, thank you for coming today.

DR. McKAY:

Thank you, again, for having us.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay, we're going to continue onto the agenda. I see no Tabled Resolutions. We're going to go to the Introductory Resolutions. Okay.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Okay, we have **IR 1515, appropriating funds in connection with Fiber Cabling Network and WAN Technology Upgrades, (CP 1726) (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

LEG. ANKER:

Second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstained? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

If there's nothing else on our agenda, I will adjourn the meeting.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:09 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**