

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 5, 2015.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Sarah S. Anker - Chairperson
Legislator Monica Martinez - Vice Chair
Legislator Thomas Cilmi
Legislator Lou D'Amaro
Legislator Robert Trotta

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory - District No. 15
George M. Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson - Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Jason Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Vincent Mezzanotte - Commissioner/IT
Doug Miller - Director/IT
Dr. Shaun McKay - President/Suffolk County Community College
Gail Vizzini - Suffolk County Community College
Ben Zwirn - Suffolk County Community College
Dr. Jeffrey Pedersen - Suffolk County Community College
Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office
Katie Horst - County Executive's Office
Amy Ellis - Aide to Legislator Anker
Lisa Pinkard - Aide to Legislator Martinez
Marie Barbara - Aide to Legislator Cilmi
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Trotta
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory
William Shilling - Aide to Legislator Calarco
All Other Interested Parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher - Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

(The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Martinez.

Salutation

Please remain standing for a moment of silent mediation prayer as we think of our men and women in our military, and also for the men and women in our law enforcement. Let's take a moment of silence for New York City Police Officer Brian Moore, who passed away recently.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you. Okay. On our agenda today we do not have correspondence and we do not have cards. We do have a presentation by Suffolk County Community College. We have President Dr. Shaun McKay with us today and his staff.

If you don't mind, we are going to take a resolution out of order. That is Introductory Resolution -- actually we don't need to take it out of order. We're just going to go straight to it.

Introductory Resolutions

It is ***Introductory Resolution 1287 - Authorizing execution of an Intermunicipal Agreement pursuant to §119-o with the Town of Brookhaven for shared computer network infrastructure (Co. Exec.)***. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

We have a second. On the motion, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. If I could ask somebody from the County Executive's Office to -- I see the Commissioner is here. I'm not sure who would best answer this question.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

We have the Commissioner and we also have Doug Miller here to give us some information about this resolution.

LEG. CILMI:

Commissioner Mezzanotte. How are you today? Good. My only question really is this is an agreement that you're entering in -- that the County is entering into with the Town of Brookhaven to provide some IT backup in the event that their IT is impacted by any sort of natural weather related disaster; correct?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Actually what we're doing is we're providing an environment within our data center here in Hauppauge that they could utilize should their primary data center be inaccessible.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. Okay. Is that something that you would offer to all of the ten towns and villages within the County?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

I think it's something that we would, yes, make available if there was a desire on both sides. But, yes, I believe this is a good precedent for establishing a shared services solution for all of the towns.

LEG. CILMI:

So I guess -- could I ask you, then, to reach out to the folks in the Town of Islip and have a conversation about -- about extending the same courtesy to them?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Absolutely. I believe we've already reached out to the Town of Islip.

LEG. CILMI:

Have you?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

To whom exactly, if I may ask.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

I met with their Director in Islip Town. They had had a flood recently. They have like a subterranean data center, and so we offered the same scenario to them and they have to go to their town board to get approval to do this.

LEG. CILMI:

How long ago did you meet with them, Doug?

DIRECTOR MILLER:

Approximately four months ago.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. Thank you very much. Thanks, guys.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Okay. Wait. Don't go away. We have another question. Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTТА:

So what do we dump all -- the Town of Brookhaven is going to dump somewhere -- it how does this work?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

It's a small rack of equipment space that we would need to provide for them to install, rack and stack some of their equipment that they would be able to access in the event of a --

LEG. TROTТА:

So periodically they are going to have to dump their material in there, because if theirs goes down, there's nothing on there I'm assuming.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

It's very limited equipment. We're not talking, you know, large volume of equipment. We are not expected to grow significantly.

LEG. TROTTA:

No, I'm not saying that. I'm saying that clearly Brookhaven at some point has to put information onto that rack, so if their system blows up, they are not going to go to a rack with nothing on it.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Right.

LEG. TROTTA:

So their employee records, everything you could possibly think of, their tax bills, everything is going to be in there.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

The data that would be installed on that is the critical data that they would need to be -- to function in the event of a disaster.

LEG. TROTTA:

Now, is Suffolk County going to have access to that?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

It's going to be in our facility.

LEG. TROTTA:

But there'll be no --

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

No, we can't access their data. Their data -- it's going to be a totally separate network, firewalled with no ability for us to access it.

LEG. TROTTA:

We are helping them out.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

We're providing them with the environment.

LEG. TROTTA:

Are we charging them?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

What we get in return is we have the ability to utilize their facility for business continuity should we need to staff employees outside of one of our County facilities. So, for instance, if we lost the Dennison Building and we needed space for people to work, they would work from their facility in Farmingville.

LEG. TROTTA:

They set me up with that one. So if we foreclosed on the Dennison Building and we are thrown out we could put people -- that was a joke.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Well, we would use it only in emergency. If we lost power or there was any reason why we couldn't --

LEG. TROTTA:

We could now utilize some space there.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Yeah. We basically extend our network to their environment so we can connect here in the event of a building being inaccessible.

LEG. TROTTA:

Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Presiding Officer Gregory has a question.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Okay. So this is, from what I understand, it's just co-locating their equipment with -- to one of our locations for their redundancy purposes?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Let me let Doug explain it in more detail.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

So what it is, is we're just offering space in the facility. Some of you have toured our data center. We do have some space in the facility thanks to virtualization. So we're offering the Town of Brookhaven the space to place one rack of gear, which they will firewall and protect and pay for the circuit from the town to our data center. This provides us with the ability to extend to them during disaster their data in case they can't access it in their location. It also lets us, as our Commissioner had mentioned, extend the County's network to the town locations so in case of say a Hurricane Sandy where we have to pop up locations to support the public, rather than rent them, we can use some of the Town of Brookhaven spots.

So in a way it saves us money. It also gives us the ability to place data if we wanted to as a tertiary backup into their data center, which we don't need at this point. We do want to try to do this to all municipalities in the County, because we do have the capacity to do that. We don't touch their data. They manage it. We just are basically a facility to host.

P.O. GREGORY:

So it's not -- they're not accessing our network.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

No.

P.O. GREGORY:

So how do they pipe the information --

DIRECTOR MILLER:

It's a firewall connection. They're going to put a piece of dark fiber between their location and ours, which they would then own and pay for.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

If we had to, we could flip a switch and allow us to extend our data to those locations over their existing network with that dark fiber.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Whatever that means, whatever dark fiber means. So there's no security concerns because you'll have people outside the County obviously having access and vice versa, us to theirs.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

We will access control with VOB, you know, we have all that going. We have security in our facility. And again, they can only get to their equipment that they're connecting to.

P.O. GREGORY:

Right, but it's all in --

DIRECTOR MILLER:

In the facility.

P.O. GREGORY:

-- the big room. It's not separate.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

It is going to be separated from ours.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

Think of it as, you know, a large server separated from all the other ones with one connection going back to Brookhaven Town.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. So we both save money.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

We both gain some redundancy.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

Mutual aid.

P.O. GREGORY:

Mutual aid in case of emergency and there's no concerns about security.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

We're always concerned about security, but in this case --

P.O. GREGORY:

This doesn't diminish or increase our concerns.

DIRECTOR MILLER:

No, it does not.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Okay. I think we're good. We'll take a vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).** Thank you, Commissioner and Doug Miller.

If the Community College doesn't mind, we just have one more resolution and then we'll have your presentation. We have ***Introductory Resolution 1338 - Designating Poet Laureate for Suffolk County (Robert J. Savino)(Anker)***. If we could have Robert Savino please come to the podium. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

We have a second and we have Robert. Welcome to the Legislature.

MR. SAVINO:

Thank you. Thank you all for having me. I did bring a poem to read. If you'd like I could read it.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

That would be very nice. Thank you.

LEG. TROTТА:

Requirement.

MR. SAVINO:

It's a special poem for me. This was written at four in the morning on the fourth birthday of my first granddaughter. It was never revised. It won the Oberon Poetry Prize in 2008 and it was the only Long Islander to have ever won that prize, so I'm pretty proud of it.

"Breakfast with Sophia. She wakes on a bed in the living room in the dark. She crawls to the foot and peeks over the edge to see if I have been to sleep at all. Then unhinges in a series of karate moves and says, "Grandpa, I'm going to beat you up". I engage for a short while, then quickly take to the breakfast table, a clandestine coward. After one period of Fruit Loop table hockey, she eats. I tangle with nocturnal words, aloud. She lifts her spoon holding it like nunchucks and says, "Grandpa, you a knucklehead". Then follows me everywhere with her mother's eyes, a past time of summer fun all over again. When she leaves, flowers in the garden droop, crabgrass and dandelions peak out over the sod. I imagine her return as a teen or a young adult, reading this poem to me or saying, "Come on Gramps, I can't dance to this". Thank you.

(Applause)

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

That was very nice. Thank you.

MR. SAVINO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Do we have any questions?

LEG. D'AMARO:

I just wanted to comment. I know Mr. Savino, and in addition to being a poet, he is also very

active in our local community and I just wanted to thank you for all of your service. I look forward to supporting this resolution today.

MR. SAVINO:

Thank you.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).** Congratulations.

MR. SAVINO:

Thank you. Thank you all once again.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

We will continue with our agenda. We have today Dr. Shaun McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College. He will be joined by Gail Vizzini, Vice President for Business and Financial Services, and Dr. Jeffrey Pedersen, Vice Presiding for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness. They will provide a presentation on the budget, accomplishments and economic impact of the Suffolk County Community College, what they have related to our County. So welcome this afternoon. Very positive outlook.

DR. McKAY:

Let me say that we thank you for hosting us today. We are very appreciative of your time and, you know, my team and I will try to proceed and to provide with you an update in regards to the College, where we are specifically at this moment. I remember Legislator Cilmi asked about the economic impact on some questions he had the last time, so are going to address that. But let me just say this: That we as a community college are very fortunate to have a Legislature that understands the benefit of the institution to the community and to its residents.

The one thing that I've heard, I was here earlier in the first session, and there was a discussion about fiscal prudence and how we would be able to fund certain items, and we have been discussing that extensively at the college. And I believe after today's presentation you will hear from my team that's here with me in regards to how we were addressing most of those items throughout the current year, and how we propose to address those going forward with your support as well.

I want to first start with our bargaining units, that's our faculty. We have about 485 full-time faculty at the college, but what happened here is in 56 years we have not had a faculty contract that has been reopened. We had that twice in the most recent time. The faculty have gone to the table and said, "We know the value of higher education. We want to work with you". As an administration we did. I myself follow what the faculty have done and so did my exempt administrators. We all did the exact same thing. Then the faculty came back to the table again and said, "We want to maintain the integrity of the institution and we want to extend the contract."

We had what we called a plus two in the system, adding two students, and you've heard this before. The classes that were not remedial, and Gail will tell you a little bit about what that has done for us in regards to bridging the gap, which is a gap of \$10 million that we had in the budget.

Our public/private partnerships that we have are extended beyond where they were in the past. We have Long Island University, most recently we signed-off on an agreement with Long Island University. Presiding Officer, thank you for being there with us, and our elected officials, Madam

Chair. We were able to now have our graduates from Suffolk County Community College not leaving Long Island in another way. We had the Stay on Long Island Scholarship, and I'm proud to tell you that today, I want to announce today, that we were able to have our students, your residents, to now receive over \$3.8 million in scholarships deferred in the sense that they are not paying that themselves. That was the initiative back in 2010 I announced.

Now, beyond that, we also have the Get There From Here Scholarship. That was a \$5 million that we had that was not -- the donor did not want to indicate their name, but we have students coming to us now. So the first two years if they qualify, they pay nothing, but as an expectation, the service aspect of it, you got to get to the community and do some work in the community. You got to give back. You got to maintain your grades. You know, all of those things are a part of what we do.

The other part of it is this: We have a gala coming up in a day or so. It feels like tomorrow. In a day or so, and we have given out \$580,000 in scholarships to residents right here on Long Island over the past year. Students who, again, if you know, we had a Pell and the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the discussion about SUG, the discussion about student loans. And what we have to do as a region, and I think we've taken the lead on this for the State, I think we have, we are the ones talking about this, because I know the impact it has on our residents right here in Suffolk County.

The important thing is this: That we have a Legislature that works on behalf of its residents, that is responsive and works with us in regards to dealing with the difficulties. Over the past three years, the first year, let me go back to the first year, and I want to use my notes because I know we have been through this for quite a session. The first year was the \$1.8 million we used from our reserves. The next year we went into three point -- Gail, three point?

MS. VIZZINI:

Three point four.

DR. McKAY:

And now we're recommending going back into the reserves again. When we came before this body, at that time I was the Executive Dean of the Grant Campus, Middle States spoke to us and said your reserves are not the level where it should be because of the size of your institution. We went through GASB, we went through -- there's a whole area in which we have to discuss, and Gail will talk about it in a minute. But here we are going again. We are going against the grid.

You know, what we've done, and our Board of Trustees have really taken the lead on this one to say that we have to hold the line on tuition increases. We have all the charts and all the data we can share with you in regards to what the students have paid over the years. We have a chart that shows what we have done. But you know what the most important thing is? When we get a budget call letter from the County, we respond as part of what we believe is a decision that would come before you, but to help you in making further decisions. We have done that several years, and several years in a row. But we are at a point now where our students are bordering around 52% of net cost in regards to their cost to attend the institution. Our Charter says it's a third, a third, a third. And we have several years in a row we had zeroes from the County, and we understand the difficulty the County has been dealing with, but it's time for us to really understand what we get back in return.

These are residents that are remaining here on Long Island. They are going to be spending to stay right here on Long Island, we are seeing what it means about housing costs on Long Island, we are seeing all of that. We are dealing -- we just gave the County Executive a letter of support recently for a grant to expand a corridor for transportation moving back and forth. We heard about

transportation between the campuses and what we are dealing with. But you know what we are doing also? Cyber security, energy management, renewable energy, all of those things are coming to Suffolk County now. No college in the state has such a program but us, and we want to thank you, our elected officials, for enabling us to do that. That's growing our way out of what we're dealing with right now, because you can't cut a way out of it. We can't certainly. Eighty-six percent of my budget is in personnel cost, health insurance, retirement cost, those areas.

So I will turn over for a minute, I want to have --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Dr. McKay?

DR. McKAY:

I'm sorry.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Could I ask you a question before you turn it over?

DR. McKAY:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You just said something that caught my ear, that we can't cut our way out of this. Can't cut our way out of that. I just want to explore that for a moment with you as the head of this great institution.

DR. McKAY:

Sure.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Because sitting over here, I think all we talk about is cutting our way out of it. It's a very difficult thing to do when you feel that you've cut as far as you can, and when you cut further you're going to do it at a supreme sacrifice to the very mandate that you have as an institution to deliver educational services. Correct?

DR. McKAY:

You are correct and I'll say this, that when you look --

LEG. D'AMARO:

What -- I really apologize for interrupting you, but I just want to finish my thought. So if you can't cut your way out of that, which to me means you've made cuts, and I'm not diminishing the fact of how the college budget has been managed and how difficult it's been to do that, what's left? You can't cut your way out of it. What's left?

DR. McKAY:

I said we have to grow our way out of this. It is to look at what the economic factors are telling us, and you will hear a bit about this in a few minutes. But we have to talk to business and industry. We have to also inform business and industry as to why teaching and learning, why education is paramount, why the upscaling of their staff members are important. But, on the other side, they need investment into what they do, you know, and at a rate in which that the investment would then bring returns and get goods to market and services very easily.

Now, the other side of it is this. When it comes to what we do, we provide over 110 options to students that are coming here. On the forefront we have to make sure that they understand exactly what they're getting enrolled into, the time to get out to either transfer, to get a degree or to get to a job. The other side of is internships and everything else. Now, when you say we can't cut -- I say we can't cut our way out of this, let me just say this: In order for us to right ship this economy, we have to make strategic investments, strategic investments, and it's going to require tough decisions. For me, I have 485 full-time faculty members. I got 1500 adjunct faculty members. That's where -- and then, by the way, you have 1,000 retirees that are in the system. That's the number. If 85% of what we are dealing with is in that area, OTPS, which is other than personnel services, Gail it's about -- what we got, 3% and then we have plant operations seven percent?

MS. VIZZINI:

About.

DR. McKAY:

Yeah. That's the number. So for us, enrollment is our revenue stream. We got to expand what we do and find efficiencies in the system. Synergistics, for example, is a company that -- energy management company, Mr. D'Amaro, that we have brought in. And what we do know is to look at every single building that's not being used, you've got the lights off, what's the temper you're using, you know, all of those things that we're doing. You know, and we are looking for ways within the system. That's efficiency on the other side.

The other side is in enrollment. Now, in the high schools we have now the largest high school population that's enrolled dually with the college. So they don't come on campus, so you don't have the traffic mitigation issues, Legislator Trotta, you know, but they're in the high schools, you know. So we're working on trying to find a way to do that.

The other side of it this. By co-chairing the LIRACHE Committee, we are working with the superintendents of the high schools now to find a way on the whole remediation issue in regards to not making that something that comes on campus for us to address. So we are looking at ways in which to address that.

So, again, I want to thank you. It's a long response to your question, but again, because our only leg is -- three of them. The State, the County and the student. That's our only revenue source.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, and that is all -- those three, that three legged stool is supported by what -- how you manage your college budget.

DR. McKAY:

Absolutely.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Because one way to meet the problem is to get more money, and another way to meet the problem is to make cuts and be more efficient, and you're doing all of that, but yet the college is wildly successful in keeping students and retaining students and offering County residents especially an opportunity to get an education, which is becoming incredibly expensive. And, you know, year after year yet we come here and we have the same discussion about how much, you know, can the County afford to give, and I just want to assure you from my point of view and speaking for myself, you're right up there with the public safety and the police protection and safe communities. It's vastly important that we continue to fund that institution and provide that access to education that even, you know, if you want to talk about socioeconomic levels, that even upper middle class

individuals, it's really out of reach for a lot of people to get a college education today with without support. So I for one don't have a problem stepping up to the plate to do that.

DR. McKAY:

Thank you. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the faculty, we appreciate that as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

And also I just want to mention too, though, in understanding how successful you have been in the past, you are now, and your vision for the future, it's -- I'm sure we are going to get a lot of information about your projects and programs that you're doing right now, but it is just amazing to see that you're willing to take a risk in pursuing the growth of the Community College, because we need you. We need the education component to help sustain our economy. I heard so many wonderful success stories about individuals who were basically technicians, working in labor. They went through the Community College through grants and support by your faculty, and now the -- I guess he was probably in his mid-30's, he's an engineer now and he's increased his personal wealth as well as helping, you know, Suffolk County in general with the economy. So thank you.

DR. McKAY:

And I must say that we're celebrating this year, in a couple of days in fact, the 50th anniversary of the Nursing Program. And we have the largest nursing program in the State and, you know, we really are proud of Suffolk County and what we have accomplished. And since -- it's around 56 years and the history that we have, the number of students who have graduated, who have transferred, who have retained and stayed in Suffolk County, the number of people who have resided here, purchased homes and are happy to be in Suffolk County. If you asked any one of them, if you know of someone who graduated from Suffolk or have you attended Suffolk, and they'll raise their hands and tell you yeah. And it's the value of what this body has placed into the community. So I don't want underemphasize that, but I want to overemphasize that because it's a value.

What I want to do is to move down. I want to have, you know, my colleague Ben Zwirn make a statement, and I want to go down to Jeffrey Pedersen on the economic impact study, and then I want to have Gail Vizzini and we'll go back and forth in regards to the budget. So, Ben.

MR. ZWIRN:

Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here and I've been here for a number of years in the past representing the County Executive on matters. I want to thank Legislator D'Amaro. I remember last year when we had the budget vote and you stood up strong for the college and said, "Look, we're giving money to other organizations. We want to make sure that the college is well taken care of". Because this is the future. I mean, this is the gateway for many of our residents to get a higher education because the cost of education is, as many of you know who have children who are of college age or have post college age. I know I -- for example, I mean, I'll get my money back when I sell my house because the home equity loans and everything else. Best investment that I've ever made, the kids are on their own. They don't live on Long Island anymore, but they were able to have the opportunity and that education was their gateway to a successful future. And this is, for many of our residents, this is their first opportunity.

And we've expanded. There's on-line courses now. I mean, we're doing everything we can to try to keep the college affordable for our residents and it's still the best value that you can get for an education because the credits are transferred. Dr. McKay started this program Stay on Long Island. There are a number of four year schools here who accept all the credits so that when a student is ready to transfer to get a four year degree they can do it seamlessly and it has been very successful. And many of you know it because -- I know Legislator Trotta has a child who's gone through the

school. I can't tell you, and you probably know as Dr. McKay said, you go everywhere, I mean, I have been in stores where I have my Suffolk County Community College hat on and people said, "I went there". Just so many people take advantage of it.

We are the largest community college in the State of New York. When we go to Albany and we take the students with us, this year we had over 60 students go up there on SUNY Day and told their stories to our State Representatives and I think it made a huge impact. We were able to get an increase in FTE aid on this Legislature this year of \$100, which is for FTE is equivalent to about \$2 million increase in State aid. They've approved our Capital Program, you have approved our Capital Program, so that there are new buildings going up. We have a groundbreaking on May 11th. I think it's 11 o'clock in the morning, you're all going to be invited, on the Grant Campus. A new Learning Resource Center is going up.

The facilities that we have, some of them are, you know, dated, 50 years old, but we try to keep the Capital Program fresh so that we can attract students to our school. It's been wonderful. I mean, for me to be working on a college campus has been very exciting. And there are a lot of students. We have the Foundation dinner coming up on Thursday night and many of us at the college give back to the Foundation out of our paychecks. Every two weeks there's a contribution that's taken out and goes right to the Foundation so that we can support students who would otherwise need that help. There are Pell Grants. We had the Pell Grant hearing with Legislator Anker and the Presiding Officer, how important that is. Two-thirds of our students receive financial aid from Pell Grants and TAP grants on the State level. And the beauty of those is that those don't have to be repaid. That's an investment in the future of Long Island and in this country.

So Gail is going to give you a rundown on the things that the college has done to try to -- we have done to try to keep things affordable. And again, we thank you. The Legislature has always been supportive. Sometimes there's a question well, how come we're doing all these buildings, you know, there are buildings going up now all of a sudden. Well, during the previous administration none of the Capital Program was pushed forward. The library, the Health and Wellness facility on the Eastern Campus, they were jammed up and were not advanced. No contributions, no increases in contribution and aid was made during that time except once, when the former Presiding Officer Lindsay was able to push it through. But without that, the Legislature has always been supportive and we hope you continue to be.

DR. MCKAY:

And again, it goes back to Legislator D'Amaro, when we talked about how we grew our way out of this. On the East End we saw the Holiday Inn, there were hotels going up on the East End with the wineries and everything else, but they did not have a place and way they can hold a convention, you know, the agriculture firms that are out there. The other side is Southampton Police Department was coming all the way to the Grant Campus so they can train at the Police Academy utilizing the pool services. The indoor track. The schools are being bussed all the way over to the Brentwood Campus. And, again, we see that that location is again that economic boon for the East End, because now that's the only location on the East End of this capacity to provide the services that we can at this point. So that's another great thing.

The high schools, getting state of the art technology, utilizing the library, our data resources, having LIU on the campus with shared services and all of that. Again, it's more attractive. Now, that's growth. That's a revenue stream coming in. So, again, you know, I thank you for that question.

I want to pass this over to Dr. Pedersen to speak about the recent study we did, and then I will go to Gail on the budget. Dr. Pedersen.

DR. PEDERSEN:

Thank you. I'm the Vice President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, and my role is to oversee strategic planning, operational planning and institutional research. And one of the things that we engaged in was an economic impact study. We hired an economic modeling group that works with the American Association of Community Colleges and the State University of New York to look at the economic impact of Suffolk County Community College on the State and on the local level. And they came in, they did a very comprehensive report. It's actually rather large. I did bring for you, you know, we don't have to go through all of it, but I brought for you a fact sheet and the return of investment to taxpayers reports that the company put together for us.

Just some of the data that are presented. Suffolk County's payroll amounted to about \$130.9 million in not this past fiscal year but the one before, which is the one we have all the data for. The College spent another \$105 million to support its day to day operations. Looking at those numbers together in monies that were spent, monies that were allocated out, and then taking out monies that were given by the State and by the local government, there is \$116 million in added income to the County from Suffolk County's operations.

In addition, there is \$6.5 million impact in student spending, and that's for the numbers of students who come to Suffolk County Community College from outside the County. We do have a sizable number of students who are international students, students from Nassau, and even students from New York City who come out for some of our specialized programs like, for instance, Graphic Design.

In addition, the company looked at the alumni impact which is, as Legislator Anker was speaking about, the enhanced revenue that a student will gain over a lifetime by having the more advanced degree, which was \$755 million that would be given by alumni living on Long Island, for a total impact of \$879.1 million.

And there are some -- just a couple of additional numbers. I know there's a lot of numbers for you. The expenditures of students, as I said, who relocated to the region, many of them staying here, was \$6.5 5 million. Students contributed \$118.6 million to cover the cost of tuition, fees, books and supplies.

In addition, the local taxpayers of New York, which would be the State and the County, it's \$108.8 million. So the students are paying about 52, 53% of the cost of the education at the Community College. For every dollar spent, the company that we hired to look at the numbers sees a \$4.30 return, so for every dollar that is spent, \$4.30 are returned.

DR. McKAY:

Gail. And this is what we do here at the college, we either do technology multitasking or as you can see with Gail Vizzini at this point in time.

MS. VIZZINI:

Most of you who know me know I have to use my hands when I speak, so I don't want to press the button, but some of you do share in that.

DR. McKAY:

Sure. Go ahead.

MS. VIZZINI:

Our budget has been filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, with the County Executive and copies were made available to the Chair of this committee and the Chair of Budget and Finance. And it is being reviewed by the County Executive's Office as we speak. We have a meeting with them I believe next week. And my understanding, according to the Charter, the County Executive will have

a recommended budget to you by no later than May 31st, if not before. I'm hopeful that when you constitute your working group we'll be again before you to answer any questions you might have and explain anything.

But our budget process begins with a budget gap analysis similar to your budget model, and the '15-'16 Operating Budget has an increase in appropriations of over \$6 million. It's a 3.1% increase, and it's made up of increases due to contractual salary agreements and benefits, some savings related to our employer contribution to the retirement system because we do not borrow. Unlike the County, the College is unable to amortize our employer retirement payments, so we do not borrow. We pay our portion of the shared retirement bill in December.

Unfortunately, that savings from retirement was somewhat eroded by an anticipated increase in our health insurance payments, and we've also provided in our Operating Budget some positions and some needed instructional supplies and equipment to address the needs of accreditation in certain areas, and particularly the needs of the new William J. Lindsay Building.

In terms of addressing a few more items as far as the efficiencies by which the college is operated, Dr. McKay underscores the fact that there are about 3,000 employees who work for the college. Two-thirds of those individuals are actually part-time. Their services are extremely valuable to us, but unlike our full-time employees, they are truly a bargain in that they do not -- they are not covered by health insurance. They work less than the requirement for those hours. And particularly our adjunct faculty, which is how we are able to respond to growth and contraction in our enrollment, while we maintain our core of 486 full-time faculty. When we have greater demand, increases in enrollment or changes in curriculum, more demand for one discipline than the other, we rely on our adjunct professors of which there are about 1500 active adjuncts on our list of about 2000 available us to.

When a vacancy is created, Dr. McKay views a variety of data, historical data, utilization reports, viability reports to determine whether that position should be filled or can remain vacant or perhaps the function can be done by a part-time employee.

Dr. McKay already referenced our private/public partnerships with other institutions whereby they lease the facilities for evening classes, such as LIU, Adelphi and -- it's primarily LIU, Adelphi and Delhi. The college benefits from using the LIU building during the day and that building, that structure should be completed shortly. The other efficiencies, I believe, were addressed. The energy efficiencies, the Plus Two Program.

The budget that we submitted was first of course presented to our Trustees to determine how we were going to address the \$9.4 million budget gap that we have moving to '15-'16. And although the increase in appropriations was only six-and-a-half million, we mentioned earlier that this cycle we will likely be using \$4.3 million in our reserve. So it's the six million in appropriations plus the one-shot \$4.3 million infusion of revenue. That's how you get to the ten million dollar number.

The Trustees in the resolution submitted with the Operating Budget have set the tuition at an increase of \$180 annually or \$90 a semester. In addition, we were very fortunate to get an increase in our rate per FTE from the State of \$100, and that \$100 translated into approximately two million in revenue to address part of our problem. The increase in the tuition will provide the college with 3.6 million in revenue. And from that perspective, there was a willingness of the Trustees to use an amount from the reserves of \$2.3 million, but we have also asked the County for \$2 million. Those revenue sources combined would address the anticipated needs for '15-'16.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah, that's how you get to ten, roughly ten million. From the State, the \$100 per FTE, the

reserve, the use of the reserve, and the increased tuition and then the County portion.

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes.

DR. McKAY:

Okay. At this point in time we wanted to allow time for some questions and some Q and A's, but we really want to thank you for allowing us to make this presentation. It is important that we share with you the position of the institution, the cause where we are, and to be able to let you know that we are very responsible stewards of your trust, and at the same time that we will make sure that all the programming are relevant in regards to workforce and economic development. So thank you for the presentation today and for allowing us to make this presentation.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

And again, thank you for coming here and enlightening us in what you're doing to help with, you know, our residents in general with education. And again, this is about the budget, the accomplishments and economic impact and how they intertwine, and if you don't have one, you can't have the other. You know, it's a very strong relationship. And the partnerships that you have with the -- not even with just LIU, but with so many colleges throughout the country. You know, I hear from so many students about they got, you know, well as your commercial says, we got our start at Suffolk. And they go on to do so many high level accomplishments, that if they did not have that opportunity, you know, we would have lost, you know, a great deal just as a society.

So I'm just curious, maybe just a few, you don't have to get into detail, but could name maybe your top accomplishments by your students that you know of. Just, I know, Dr. McKay, you're smiling because I'm sure you have a number, but I'm just curious, whether locally or, you know, internationally.

DR. McKAY:

Let me just say that I just came back from San Antonio, Texas where I'm on the Commission with the AACCC -- several commissions, by the way. We had a host of students that were there to be recognized nationally for their accomplishments. I can give you one name, Tricia, who is now going to be moving on and she just received three scholarship offers to move to the next level. Steven Curcio, another student, he just won the Jack Kent Cooke Scholar Award. That's a \$40,000 a year tuition stipend that he doesn't have to pay. He can choose wherever he wants to go. He was offered four different scholarships. We have 13 chances award winners that just went to Albany that are now receiving proclamations from every single one. We have -- last year we had 13 students who were placed in labs, these are research labs, across the country, the most by any in the State. And I can go on, you know.

The prior year we had 4,189 graduates. This year we have, again, we are counting the numbers and we don't have the numbers yet, but you know, you got to be there for commencement and we share the number with you on that date. But again, you know, because of the size of our graduating class, now instead of giving three tickets to our attendees, we're giving only two at this point, but we're streaming it live because it's growing.

And the important thing is this: When we talk about completion and graduation rates, we talk about getting our students upskill and ready for whatever their choice is. I always say through education comes transformation and economic empowerment, but you make it what it is for you, you know. And all students do. Our faculty believe it as well. So you are correct. If I go down the record in regards to all the accomplishments we have, I can possibly read all of them right know, but I do know them.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

And I also want to comment, too, that you are providing good mentorship. In other words, you don't wait for money to come in, you don't wait for programs to happen. You go after them and I think what happens is your students are seeing that and I think that's why we're getting such a high level of very accomplished people here in Suffolk County, because you provide that opportunity. And again, I just want to thank you for all the work that you put in. You don't -- none of you up here I'm sure work a nine to five job. I mean, I know, Dr. McKay, you are all over the country, you know, getting ideas, pulling in recourses and looking for grant money. And that's another thing too, though. The amount of grant money that you get, I'm just curious, how does that compare to other community colleges?

DR. McKAY:

That's a loaded question. I'll take the other side of that. We to date have submitted about \$10.5 million on the operational side. We receive close to \$5 million. The Foundation also, which is another source of funding, we have a seven million dollar goal, and I guess I let it out, that should have been private, but we are in the silent phase right now. To date we're close to four million in reaching that seven million. And we have several major, major meetings coming up. That is to help every single taxpayer that comes through our doors.

The other side of it is this, which is very important, the open access part of our mission. We are not selective in regards to being selective admission. By the mission of the college we are open access. So a student walks in the door. If the student isn't ready for college, we got to make sure the student leaves the college ready for the place of work or transfer. And that's what we do. So, again, it's very important for us to understand that it's not a matter of what we charge, but it's a matter of what we do and how we upskill and prepare students, and again, your residents for the place of work and transfer. So thank you for the question.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Presiding Officer Gregory.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Madam Chair, and I want to thank you all, and particularly President McKay, for all that you do for our students. You know, I'm a big fan of the college and certainly transforming lives. It's one of the very few things that we as Legislators have a direct impact on people, you know. I mean, going to school, getting an education, a quality education, will directly impact that individual's life and that to me is amazing. And, you know, when you empower people with a quality education, you know, they're upwardly mobile, they're changing their socioeconomic status. It just improves the individual obviously but improves the community. And to be successful, and you guys have done in a successful way, is you have to -- you can't remain and rest on your laurels. You have to keep being innovative and creative because you have to respond to the needs of the business community to come up with different programs and trainings. You are obviously looking at ways to meet the demands of your student population by having courses early in the day and late at night, on the weekends, online, so you are being very responsive to the demands that you're faced with. Particularly under an open access policy, which I think is just tremendous, because you're saying we want everyone to come through our doors. We are going to change -- we are going to allow you the ability to transform your life and to improve and be a productive member of our community. And we want you to stay here and we're putting the mechanisms in place so that you can stay here by having access to what LIU or the other Two Plus Two Programs that you have. And all that you've created and you're doing is wonderful.

Legislator Trotta has one request. He says can you get his daughter to move out of the house. I don't know if you can accomplish that, but you've certainly done other great things. So I'm really impressed with what you guys have done. We as a body have certainly supported you guys, but we

have to make sure that we continue to do that and support you in a way that it doesn't impact the students. It doesn't change the dynamic of going to Suffolk Community College has for the student, making it more expensive, which will have the opposite effect of making it less accessible. So thank you for all that you do, all of you.

DR. McKAY:

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. I just had a couple of more questions on the budget itself. Maybe Gail can help me with this. So what's the overall college budget in dollars, as opposed to euros?

MS. VIZZINI:

The current budget is 205 million. The proposed budget for '15-'16 is 212 million. It's \$6.5 million change, dollar change, 3.18% increase. That's without grants. There's an additional \$3.1 million in grants, but.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And the current year budget that you're in right now, what's the percent break down between the tuition, the State and the County contributions?

MS. VIZZINI:

The -- I need a minute on that. Do you have another question? Sorry.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I do have another question. Does the, Middle States is it, the accreditation agency that you deal with, do they have a required student/teacher ratio that you must meet or full-time?

DR. McKAY:

That's a Charter requirement, and it goes back to where as a full opportunity program, meaning that with open access that the State should be paying 40% and then the remainder comes from the County and the students. The State, again, we've said this before, exempts itself from the 40%, then it does not pay the 33%.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

DR. McKAY:

Our students -- now to go back to your question directly, Middle States, I'll have to look at that, but I don't believe Middle States talks specifically about the number, but it speaks about affordability and options and all of those areas. So I can get that back to you, but I think that that's a Charter requirement.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I only ask the question because the numbers that were presented, 4,189 graduates.

DR. McKAY:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And 486 full-time faculty gives you roughly a eight and a half to one ratio. I know that's a simple way to look at things, but it seems that that's a pretty good ratio.

DR. McKAY:

No, because in the faculty contract you have faculty who are advisors or do office hours. It's not just the teaching portion of it. They have to spend time meeting with the students in the classroom and that's contractually required.

LEG. D'AMARO:

No, no. But what I'm saying is for every eight and a half students, you have one teacher.

DR. McKAY:

Again, you have the clubs, you have activities.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Am I not doing this right? There was four-thousand one-hundred --

DR. McKAY:

No, no, no. I appreciate it. But what I'm saying is --

LEG. D'AMARO:

I just want to know if I'm -- so you had 4,189 students graduate last year.

DR. McKAY:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, but that's graduates. There's a lot more students. So what's the actual ratio? It's a lot more than that. So I wasn't doing that right.

DR. PEDERSEN:

Our class size hovers around 23 students.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's where I was going. Okay. So it's much higher because there's two years. There's two classes there at all times.

DR. PEDERSEN:

We talk about 26,000 students a semester, but because of students leaving and students coming in, last year we had 33,000 for credit and another 10,000 non-credit students.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. So the numbers -- it flows right through my theory there. Okay. Good. I'm glad to hear that. Okay. I feel much better. But anyway, Gail.

MS. VIZZINI:

On the revenue picture the '15-'16 budget would be -- the student share would be 51%, the County share would be 22.7 and the State share is 26.2.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And then what's proposed in the new budget?

MS. VIZZINI:

That's the '15-'16 proposed. The current is 50% student, 23.8 County and 25.9 State.

LEG. D'AMARO:

The State went down.

MS. VIZZINI:

No, the State went from 25.9 --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. VIZZINI:

-- to 26.2 with the \$100 per FTE.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And the Trustees have already moved on this, the tuition aspect of it. The State has agreed to the increase, right, for the \$100 --

MS. VIZZINI:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So you're looking at a -- you said last year was 23.8 for the County?

MS. VIZZINI:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And this year it's 22.7.

MS. VIZZINI:

Yeah.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So it's a decrease in funding? In real dollars it's an increase? That's what I'm trying to get at, what numbers are we talking about. Percentages can be misleading, but is there an increase dollar-wise that's being asked of the County over last year and what is that amount?

MS. VIZZINI:

Two million.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Two point --

MS. VIZZINI:

It's roughly 5%, 5.1%.

LEG. D'AMARO:

A 5.1% increase in the County portion.

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes.

DR. McKAY:

And again, Legislator D'Amaro, again, because when you look at -- we have a chart we'll share with this committee. Over the last ten years and with the zeroes that we've, you know, embraced in support of the County, there is a structural deficit that we would have to address with the County in order for us to get to where we need to be.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I understand that.

DR. McKAY:

And that's part of the reason why now we're looking at a sustainable approach by this body, to make sure that not only that we keep tuition affordable, but at the same time to work with this body to make sure that while we are upskilling our employees and we're training folks that are here, we can retain them right here, and that's the other side. And then the economic development side, which is on the revenue, you spoke about before.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. My last question was just in terms of its 5.1% increase, but in terms of dollars, Gail, from this year to next year, what's the dollar amounts, the County contribution in dollars.

MS. VIZZINI:

The County contribution is thirty-nine nine. I'm sorry, thirty-nine seven. So it would go to forty-one seven. The requested increase is 1.98 million. Legislator D'Amaro, if I may just modify those percentages that I gave you. I'm sorry, I had the wrong chart. They're very similar, but one second. The '14-'15 and '15-'16, the student share remains 50%. The County share goes from 23.8 to 23.1 and the State share is the one that actually goes up, 25.9 to 26.2. So proportionately the revenue remains about the same.

LEG. D'AMARO:

About the same, but from the County perspective only it's an increase of \$2 million a year contribution.

MS. VIZZINI:

About that, yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

About that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Okay. Legislator Cilmi has a question.

LEG. CILMI:

Thanks, Madam Chair. Thank you all for being here and for the good work that you do with our students. So New York State is basically not holding up their end of the bargain when it comes to their contribution to tuition payments. That's correct?

MR. ZWIRN:

That's correct.

LEG. CILMI:

They're at what percentage right now?

MR. ZWIRN:

Gail, about 26?

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes, 26.

MR. ZWIRN:

As Dr. McKay said, back in the 1970's they asked the community colleges to go -- if they had open enrollment --

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

MR. ZWIRN:

-- they agreed to pay up to 40% of the cost.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

MR. ZWIRN:

And every year they exempt themselves from that responsibility.

LEG. CILMI:

Naturally. So if they paid the 40% which they are obligated to pay, then that would leave 30% each for Suffolk County and for students. Right?

MS. VIZZINI:

Well, that would be a significant increase in the County portion.

LEG. CILMI:

Right, I understand that, but it would leave 30% each.

MS. VIZZINI:

That student portion would go down.

LEG. CILMI:

The student portion would go down compared to what it is now.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

And the County portion would probably go, you said it would go up a little bit.

MS. VIZZINI:

Again, the desirable County contribution is 26.7 for open enrollment.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. All right. So, I mean, I guess the next question then is how do we get New York State to do what they're supposed to do? I noticed your microphone wasn't on.

MR. ZWIRN:

We go up there and advocate for the college every year and they're aware of their obligations. And

it just -- even this year when there was money, for the first time in a long time there was billions of dollars in extra revenue, we had to fight just to get the \$100. Last year it was 50 in increase. Two years ago it was 150, and then last year it went down to 50. This year we had -- the Governor gave us no increase. The Assembly gave us about \$50 and the Senate gave us a hundred and we were able to get the Assembly to bring it up to the \$100 as opposed to going backyards.

LEG. CILMI:

So here we are again picking up the pieces of what New York State has left behind. I mean, they have left -- New York State has left the students of this County behind and they've asked Suffolk County to pick up the pieces. And they have done so time and time again, not only with regard to the Community College and with regard to our students, but with regard to a myriad of other issues. And yet we are left to deal with \$176 million deficit. So I guess, I mean, that is what it is at the moment, unfortunately. And, of course, as we do every year we'll deal with that as best as we can.

Can you talk to us about the percentage of students enrolling in your college that -- in our college, let me change that, in our college, that need remedial education? Over the past handful of years has it gone up, has it gone down? Has the number of students gone up or down needing remedial education?

DR. PEDERSEN:

It has remained about 60% of students coming in need some form of remediation, about 52% in mathematics alone, about 30% in writing and about 34% in reading.

LEG. CILMI:

Has the college done any analysis of how the new education mandates, particularly the Common Core mandates, teaching evaluation, testing etcetera, will impact the need to provide remedial education to students?

DR. PEDERSEN:

The Saturday before last had a -- we brought together 90 different -- 93 people from across the elementary school system, the secondary system and college to talk about just that, what the Common Core will do as it moves up, so that we will all -- one of the problems has been an alignment of curriculum. So that what we expect on the high school level will be taught below. They'll know what our expectations are. We know what they're doing so that we can tailor what we're doing. So we are working on that as Common Core now moves up. It was a very, very positive meeting. It wasn't political at all. Nobody, you know, got into the whole politics of it. It was really just about pedagogy. We do expect that there will be a reduction in the number of students needing remediation. We've also taken kind of an activist role in working with our secondary ed partners. You've probably heard about the Hampton Bays initiative that we've done, where we've reduced the number of students coming from that particular school going into math remediation by over 30%.

LEG. CILMI:

So despite the, and I don't know how you gauge the necessity for remediation, but despite the talk about the emphasis on teaching to the test, etcetera, and, you know, the consequent sort of lack of learning that happens as a result of teaching to a test as opposed to teaching to learn, you expect the number of students needing remediation to decline?

DR. PEDERSEN:

We are hoping that that's the case as the Common Core moves up, but also on many of the initiatives, bringing the problem to Superintendents of the school districts. I put together a report of how many students from each district are put into -- placed into remediation and shared that with the Superintendents and the high school principals and they were honestly shocked about the

number of students who were placed in remediation.

LEG. CILMI:

If you viewed, this might be a difficult question to answer, but maybe you've looked at it. If you view the length of one's education at Suffolk Community College as 100%, what percentage of that education, when somebody needs remediation, what percentage of that education is devoted to remediation -- to remedial education.

DR. PEDERSEN:

Right. What we have found -- where it really significantly hits people is in retention and persistence. So for every course that a student takes in remediation, their chances of completing for their Associate's degree or transferring to another college drops 14%. So it drops precipitously if you have to take, say, two levels of math.

LEG. CILMI:

That's not what I was getting at I don't think. I may have missed the answer. But in other words, if I spend 100% of my time getting educated at Suffolk County Community College, and when I entered the college I needed remedial education, how much of that 100% of my time did I spend on that remedial education versus education that's supporting continuing education.

DR. PEDERSEN:

College credit bearing courses?

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

DR. PEDERSEN:

It would depend on what you were placed in. As I said, 52% of students are placed in math remediation. Some of them can be placed in a lower level, which is really arithmetic, and then others will be placed in algebra. So depending on how many courses that you're placed in, and that varies from student to student. There are some students who come needing placement in four different remedial courses. They'll have to take two in math, they'll have to take one in writing and one in reading.

DR. McKAY:

And I must add also, not every student who enters the college attends the college full-time, because they are working two and three jobs. So their goals either as part-time or coming to the college, they have a longer way to get through the pipeline. The other side of it is also if that student is a nonmatric, for example, they are not matriculated into a program, and they test into one or two or three remedial courses and they can only take two courses while they're going to, you know, work full-time, that's a whole different discussion. And I know Dr. Pedersen has some statistics on that because we've looked at that as well, getting back to your question.

DR. PEDERSEN:

About 46% of our students are part-time students, so if they have to take a remedial course or two that's going to extend their time trying to get through their degree program, you know, a significant amount of time. When we report out statistics, very often what we're reporting, and the Governor has used these statistics, we're really reporting what would normally be used for a four year school, they use the same metric for community college. So they will use the same metrics with Stony Brook that they use with us. We're open access, Stony Brook is selective. And they don't have near the number of part-time students that we have.

So, for instance, when you look at our three year statistics, which is 150% of time, which is what is normally looked at, we come up with about 7% of our students transferring out to another institution during that time, and about 20% graduating. When you start looking out at six years time, we're up to 45.7% of students who either transfer to another institution or graduate. And if you go up to ten years, which seems crazy, but when you're looking at 46% of our students going taking one course or two courses a semester, it's up over 50% of our students either graduate or do transfer to a four year institution.

LEG. CILMI:

Wow. So the students who are taking ten years, let me see if I heard this correctly, to complete their education at Suffolk Community College, forty some-odd percent of them are going on after that to a four year institution?

DR. PEDERSEN:

Either to a four year institution or they're graduating with their Associate's Degree.

LEG. CILMI:

Or they're graduating with their Associate's Degree.

DR. PEDERSEN:

We do have some students who come take courses to be able to go to say Stony Brook.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. Okay. All right. Thank you all.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Okay. It looks like we're closing as far as our presentation closing down. We're a little over our time. I think we have actually another committee meeting that was supposed to happen a half hour ago. So if you have no further questions, Dr. McKay, would you like to say a few closing words?

DR. McKAY:

Yes. Madam Chair, members of this body, we want to thank you on behalf of our faculty, our students, our staff, our Board of Trustees, for hosting us today and enabling us to share with you what we are doing here to transform the lives of your residents and our students. So thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Thank you so much. I see no further business. This committee meeting is adjourned.

(The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.)