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News Release

For Immediate Release

**Dutchess Community College Foundation Funds New Scholarship
with Aid from New York Propane Gas Association**

Albany, NY (April 14, 2011) – The Dutchess Community College Foundation announced a new scholarship funded by a gift of \$12,000 from the New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA) for students enrolled full time in the college's Fire Science Program.

Two \$3,000 scholarships have been awarded for the 2010-2011 academic year, and two \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded for the 2011-2012 academic year, to help provide more qualified, well-trained technicians to meet the labor needs of the growing propane industry. Recipients will be second-year, full-time fire science students who demonstrate financial need, with preference given to those interested in propane technology. Students who maintain enrollment in the program may renew the scholarship for their final semester.

Approved as an alternative, clean fuel by both the National Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the Clean Air Act of 1990, propane is currently in use in nearly five million households in the U.S. for heating. That number is growing nationwide and especially in New York State, according to NYPGA. Propane gives off minimal emissions when burned and is not harmful in the ground or waterways.

Dutchess' fire science program, known for its unique combination of lecture and hands-on training in state-of-the-art laboratories, prepares students to enter the industry with a background in the complex technology of fire prevention and protection.

"Scholarships make a big difference in the lives of our students," said David Conklin, president of Dutchess Community College. "The New York Propane Gas Association has been an exceptional donor and an important partner in our work."

NYPGA is a member-focused trade organization providing services that communicate, educate and promote the propane industry in New York. The association was formed in 1948 to offer opportunities for training and networking with peers, and to aid with legislative issues that contribute to operating a safe and successful industry.

"The New York Propane Gas Association Scholarship at Dutchess represents the one of many awards that we are establishing at community colleges to train new technicians in the safe storage, handling and use of propane so they can join hundreds of industry personnel educated under the industry's extensive training programs throughout the country," said Joseph Porco, president of the association. He credited the industry's Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) for funding that provides each state with rebates based on its use of propane and its contribution to PERC. "More funding will be forthcoming if New York approves a similar program known as Empire PERC," Porco continued.

For more information on the value and safe uses of propane, visit www.nypropane.com and www.usepropane.com.

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