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News Release

For Immediate Release

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

Albany, NY (September 12, 2011) – The New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA) is pleased to announce a gift of \$12,000 to the Erie Community College Foundation that will establish the Elbert Stillwaggon Memorial Scholarships for students enrolled full-time in the college's Fire Prevention Technology Program and the John Ganey Memorial Scholarships for students enrolled full-time in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technical Services (HVAC/R) Program at Erie Community College (ECC).

Two \$3,000 Elbert Stillwaggon Memorial Scholarships will be awarded for the 2011-2012 academic year to enhance the general understanding of professional firefighters in propane emergencies through a curriculum which includes fundamentals, behavior and combustion fires, hazardous materials, rules of OSHA and the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and the rules and regulations of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code of the State of New York.

Two \$3,000 John Ganey Memorial 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, particularly in upstate New York.

Recipients will be full-time students who demonstrate financial need, having completed at least 24 credits at the end of their spring semester, and having a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.50. Eligible students will be identified by ECC faculty who will select award recipients, 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.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Erie Community College I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the New York Propane Gas Association for this generous gift," said Jack Quinn, President of Erie Community College. "These awards will certainly benefit students with financial needs as well as help to provide them with very marketable skills to aid them in securing a career upon graduation. At ECC we greatly value relationships like this with industry. It is a win-win for all involved. Special thanks to President Porco for all his work in promoting these types of relationships with community colleges."

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ECC-NYPGA Scholarships

September 12, 2011

Page 2

"The New York Propane Gas Association Scholarship at ECC represents 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. For additional information about Erie Community College's programs, please visit www.ecc.edu.

Erie Community College

Erie Community College meets the needs of a diverse student body and contributes to regional economic vitality by providing excellent, flexible, affordable and accessible educational programs in a multi-campus environment committed to continuous improvement.

New York Propane Gas Association

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.

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