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News Release

For Immediate Release

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

Albany, NY (May 6, 2011) – The New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA) is pleased to announce a gift of \$6000 to the Jefferson Community College Foundation that will establish the Elbert Stillwaggon Memorial Scholarship for Jefferson Community College (JCC) students enrolled full time in the college's Fire Protection Technology Program.

Two \$3,000 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.

Recipients will be full-time fire protection technology students who demonstrate financial need, have completed at least 24 credits at the end of the spring semester, and have a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.50, with preference given to those interested in propane technology. Students who maintain enrollment in the program may renew the scholarship for their final semester. Eligible students may apply for the scholarship through the office of financial services at JCC by calling 315-786-2355.

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.

Jefferson' fire protection technology 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.

"We are excited to have a scholarship available specifically for students enrolled in fire protection technology," said Cynthia Shelmidine, chair of Jefferson's public safety department. "Thanks to the generosity of the New York Propane Gas Association, several deserving students will have the financial assistance needed to continue their studies in vital program."

"The New York Propane Gas Association Scholarship at Jefferson 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. For additional information about Jefferson's fire protection technology degree program, please visit www.sunyjefferson.edu or call 315-786-2277.

SUNY Jefferson: Celebrating 50 Years of Learning ~ Changing Lives

Established on November 7, 1961, Jefferson Community College was the area's first institution of higher education. Supervised by the State University of New York (SUNY), Jefferson offers 30+ associate degrees and certificates for career preparation or transfer; local access to bachelor's and advanced degrees through partner institutions; lifelong learning through workshops and seminars; business and industry training; and cultural enrichment opportunities for the entire Watertown/Fort Drum region. Jefferson is accredited by the Middle States Association and currently serves approximately 3,800 students from Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, and St. Lawrence counties, including a significant number of service members and their families.

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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