



For more information, contact:
Barbara Roach
518.383.3823
nypga@nycap.rr.com

News Release

For Immediate Release

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

Albany, NY (September 19, 2011) – The New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA) is pleased to announce a gift of \$6,000 to the Onondaga Community College Foundation that will establish the Elbert Stillwaggon Memorial Scholarships for Onondaga Community College students enrolled full-time in the college's Fire Prevention 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 prevention technology students, 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 Onondaga faculty who will select award recipients.

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.

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

"This scholarship will provide much needed financial assistance to our students pursuing careers as firefighters," said Doug Whittaker, Chair of the [Fire Protection Technology](#) degree program at Onondaga Community College. "On behalf of our students in this program, I want to thank the New York Propane Gas Association for their generous investment in higher education for these first responders that serve our communities."

"The New York Propane Gas Association Scholarship at Onondaga 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 Onondaga Community College's fire prevention technology degree program, please visit www.sunyocc.edu.

Onondaga Community College

From humble beginnings at Midtown Plaza a half century ago, to the bustling 280 acre campus atop Onondaga Hill, Onondaga Community College – the community's college - remains dedicated to serving the needs of students. Onondaga is the second-largest undergraduate institution in Central New York with nearly 12,000 students and is a two-year college operating under the State University of New York (SUNY). A 2010 "Model of Efficiency" honoree by University Business magazine, Onondaga offers nearly 50 programs of study, bachelor and master's degrees available on campus through a [regional higher education center](#), and more than 80 transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities. The College is home to five-time NJCAA national champion men's lacrosse and 2009 NJCAA women's lacrosse teams and has [fifteen intercollegiate men's and women's athletic teams](#).

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.

###