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News Release

For Immediate Release

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

Albany, NY (April 21, 2011) – The Schenectady County Community College Foundation announced a new scholarship – the Elbert Stillwaggon Memorial Scholarship – funded by a gift of \$6,000 from the New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA) for students enrolled full time in the college's Fire Protection Technology A.A.S. 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.

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.

Schenectady's 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 thank NYPGA for establishing this new scholarship that will assist students as they take classes and receive hands-on training toward becoming professionals in the fire protection technology field, specifically those who are focusing on propane technology," said Dr. Quintin Bullock, Schenectady County Community College President. "We appreciate their investment in our students and in the community college as a whole."

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 Schenectady 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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