

Getting to Work



I've worked hard to help foster the entrepreneurial spirit of Long Island. Local businesses, like Patriot Mobility, help get the hardworking men and women of our community back to work. This year, the legislature has enacted a number of provisions to help grow local jobs, including reducing the corporate tax rate and establishing requirements to boost the amount of state contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned business.



Hitting the Books

As part of this year's state budget, we provided schools in Suffolk County with \$87.5 million in education aid, an increase of 5.3%. As a former Trustee for the South Huntington School District and educator, I know how critical it is that we provide our schools with the funding they need. This year, I also pushed for Common Core reforms, such as prohibiting scores from being the sole criteria for promotion, protecting student data, and increasing testing transparency. While some needed reforms were achieved, more needs to be done and I continue to serve as a vocal advocate.



In February, my former students from the New Opportunities At Hofstra program visited during session in Albany. Thanks to advocates like them, we gathered enough support to increase aid for community college students and increase the maximum Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award to \$5,165.



Following the flawed implementation of Common Core, my colleagues and I hosted a series of hearings across the state. Since then, we have introduced a comprehensive plan to reform Common Core, known as the Achieving Pupil Preparedness and Launching Excellence (APPLE) Plan (bit.ly/APPLEplan) and have been vocal advocates on behalf of our young students.

Save Sagamore

Over the past 10 months, I've worked hard to help protect the mental health services in our community. Through online petition drives, facility tours with other legislators, and budget negotiations, we've pushed to keep this critical center in our area. I am pleased the facility remains open and operating and I will continue to serve as a voice for the essential services our community relies upon every day.



Women of Distinction

Our community is blessed with tremendous women who have enhanced the lives of countless residents every day. The 2014 Women of Distinction Ceremony provided the chance to say 'thank you' to 13 incredible women for the vital role they play in our lives and show them how much they are appreciated. Our honorees came from all walks of life – they included mothers, grandmothers, teachers, advocates, and many others.



Fire Department News

Over the past few months, I've had the pleasure of attending a number of officer installation dinners for departments across the 10th Assembly District. Melville Fire Department is a shining example of the quality of first responders that serve our residents here in Suffolk County, and I was honored to share in the promotion of Chief Michael McKeefrey, my former teacher.



In February, our community was struck by a tragic carbon monoxide leak which cost the manager of Legal Sea Foods his life. Fortunately, thanks to the quick actions of members of the Huntington Community First Aid Squad, further loss of life was prevented. Since then, I had the chance to honor the first responders and legislation has been passed to require carbon monoxide detectors in restaurants and commercial buildings.



Reading is Fun!

April was the 10th Anniversary of the Elwood Public Library. The event included an open house with food, a photo-booth, prizes, face-painting, and a 3-D printer demo. Following a proposal by the governor in January to cut aid for libraries by \$4 million, we ultimately added \$1 million in aid, bringing our annual support for libraries to \$86.6 million.

This year, I again partnered with the New York State Library to sponsor a Summer Reading Challenge. The program encourages students to read for 15 minutes or more each day for at least 40 days during their summer vacation. A list of reading suggestions and a copy of the brochure can be found on my Assembly website. If your child completes the challenge, please be sure to contact my office so they can receive their Certificate of Accomplishment.



Walk to Cure Arthritis



Over the past year, our community has given generously to charities and events that are truly making a difference in the lives of Long Islanders. From supporting life-saving medical treatment, to protecting our four-legged friends, and keeping motorcyclists safe on the roads, no cause has ever been too small for our friends and neighbors to show their support.

For additional information on these or any issues before state government, please contact:



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