Lifetime Achievement Award
Yelleshpur Dathatri
Professor, Electrical Engineering Technology
A Farmingdale State College Professor for over 30 years before retiring last year, Professor Dathatri is recognized for his leadership and expertise in Farmingdale’s solar energy initiatives and photo voltaic installation training program. He initiated the solar energy program at Farmingdale and was the founder and director of FSC’s Solar Energy Center, the first of its kind in the northeast. He is recognized locally and nationally for his exemplary work and his service to the community in developing solar energy as an alternative energy source. His continued efforts have kept Farmingdale at the forefront of energy innovation. He received the 2006 SUNY Research Foundation Award for Research and Scholarship for his exemplary service.

Judith M. McEvoy Memorial Alumnus of the Year Award
Dr. Gary Brown ’64
Professor Emeritus, Departments of Horticulture and Biology
A 1964 graduate, Dr. Brown is recently retired after more than 40 years at Farmingdale as a professor in the Departments of Horticulture and Biology. Throughout his career he has served in many capacities including Chairman of the Department of Ornamental Horticulture, Assistant to the Chair of the Department of Biology and Assistant to the Dean of the School of Health Sciences. He is the recipient of numerous awards including Farmingdale’s Distinguished Service Award, the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and was named Man of the Year in 2008 by the LI Nursery and Landscape Association.

Outstanding Alumnus Award
Michael Deering ’75
Director of Communications & Clean Energy Program Oversight
Long Island Power Authority
Mr. Deering was instrumental in LIPA’s partnership with Farmingdale’s renewable energy initiative and specifically his efforts in the planning and implementation of Farmingdale’s Solar Carport facility and ‘smart grid’ related facilities. He has 25 years of environmental and energy experience and has been instrumental in the development of energy efficiency and renewable technologies on Long Island.

Outstanding Solar Technology Partner Award
Long Island Solar Energy Industries Association (LISEIA)
Bill Feldmann, Chairman
LISEIA Represents 85% of Long Island’s renewable energy organizations dedicated to protecting and expanding the region’s sustainable energy movement. LISEIA has been a consistent supporter of Farmingdale State College’s solar energy and sustainability initiative and a strong participant in the education of the greater community on green technology.

Outstanding Solar Vendor Awards
Solar Liberty
Adam Rizzo, President
Nathan Rizzo, Vice President
As a solar electric systems installation company and distributor of solar components, Solar Liberty is committed to promoting energy independence. They designed and constructed Farmingdale State College’s solar carport and charging station, the first of its kind on any SUNY campus.

EmPower Solar Corporation
David Schieren, CEO
Gregory Sachs, COO
EmPower is a commercial and residential non-profit solar installation, design, engineering and contracting company which developed the Solar PV and Thermal Installation of the Farmingdale State College Energy Smart House. They are committed to solar as an affordable, reliable power source and many employees have trained at the Farmingdale State College Renewable Energy and Sustainability Center (RESC).
Alumni Association Centurions

Vincent Simeone
Horticulturist, Garden Writer, Lecturer

Vincent is an experienced lecturer, instructor and horticultural consultant. A 1988 graduate of Farmingdale State College, he has worked in the horticultural field for over 27 years. Currently he teaches horticulture classes at New York Botanical Garden and Hofstra University and taught Woody plants I and II at SUNY Farmingdale from 1988 to 2007.

He has appeared on several garden shows including Martha Stewart Living and HGTV. Annually Vincent presents an average of 50 horticultural lectures, workshops and tours and has assisted with garden tours around the world and is active in many local and national organizations.

For the past 22 years Vincent has worked as Director of Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. He has written and contributed to various gardening articles for magazines and newspapers and in 2010 he contributed to a first ever textbook on public garden management. Also in 2010, the Long Island Nursery and Landscape Association honored Vincent as Man of the Year. In 2013, Vincent published his 5th book, *Grow More With Less: Sustainable Garden Methods*.

Thomas DiDominica
Founder, Dee’s Nursery

Tom DiDominica started his business in 1951 selling daffodils and lilacs on the corner of his parents’ house in Oceanside to people visiting St. Anthony’s underground church located across the street. After graduating from Farmingdale State College in 1955, he developed his business further by selling plants and seedlings during spring planting season. He then built his first greenhouse and a small retail store and planted rows of evergreens on his parent’s property adjoining their home.

Tom married Adele in 1957 and he continued to expand his business with the help of five of their children who studied horticulture, business and art and their spouses. They have developed a successful flower shop, greenhouse, garden center and gift shop. Their three other children and their spouses help out during holidays and busy seasons as do several of their 25 grandchildren, including Thomas IV who hopes to enroll at Farmingdale in the fall of 2014. Tom has also developed a Christmas tree farm in Maine, adding yet another retail as well as wholesale operation with the help of his sons and grandsons.

At present, Dees’ Nursery covers approximately 65,000 square feet and is constantly changing to stay in touch with the current retail trends.