Marie Pullan
Associate professor

Marie Pullan of Wantagh recently received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching from Farmingdale State College chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher for serving the campus and students with "absolute excellence." Pullan is an associate professor in the Computer Systems department, where she teaches in areas including programming, Web page design and data communications. She has also supported the college by preparing documentation for Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology certification and has represented the college at various fairs.
Jobs and skills: a very clear link

Unemployment study shows why support for higher education is critical

The unemployment hounding the nation is painful every day for the jobless, but it resonates especially on this day celebrating labor. Short-term unemployment is a result of recession-related factors, such as lack of demand for the products industry produces. But long-term unemployment is more about the gap between the education employers want applicants to have and the actual education of job-seekers. That’s a gap that we must close, if our economy is to revive and stay strong.

The Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program examined job openings and educational attainment in our 100 largest metropolitan regions. The study focused on currently available jobs, advertised online. It created an equation for the average educational demand for workers in a given occupation and matched it with years of education completed by the average adult over 25. It found that, in regions with wide gaps between the education employers need and the education potential employees have, unemployment averages about 2 percentage points higher than in regions with a smaller gap. As a positive example, the study cited Madison, Wisconsin’s capital and home to a powerhouse state university campus. There, the gap early this year was minus 13 percent, and the unemployment rate was 3.3 percent. In sharp contrast, in Modesto, Calif., the education gap was 13.5 percent and unemployment 16.9 percent.

The New York metropolitan area, including Long Island, falls in the middle of those extremes. But this statistic shows we have problems: 45 percent of job openings advertised online this year require a bachelor’s degree or more, but only 36 percent of adults older than 25 had that degree, as of 2010. There’s also a gap in associate’s degrees, conferred by community colleges. Early this year, 35.5 percent of the online job ads required an associate’s degree or higher, but only 22.1 percent of the potential employees met that standard.

So we have to support vigorously our local colleges that do work consciously to align their course offerings with the job market. Nassau Community College, Suffolk County Community College and Farmingdale State College, a four-year institution, keep one eye on the classroom and one on the workplace. At Farmingdale, for example, each academic area has an advisory group of representatives from the business community — the potential employers for the school’s graduates. And the campus focuses on making sure the technology it uses in instruction mirrors what students will encounter on the job, such as new aircraft with the latest cockpit equipment. That emphasis on jobs seems to be working. This year, for the first time since it became a four-year college in the early 1990s, Farmingdale’s enrollment has risen past 8,000 students.

For the long haul, we have to push state and county governments to invest in schools that understand the education-jobs equation, so we can make employment news brighter for future Labor Day celebrations.
College in Cyberspace

Bridgette Stann, 25
Nassau Community College

The West Babylon student says online courses allow her to juggle a day job and time with her daughter, Zyna, 2, and still have access to higher education.

Long Island’s colleges are joining a higher-education revolution in bringing their classes to the Web, extending the radius of their student base.

Schools are adding fully online classes, as well as “blended” classes that are given mostly online with just a few face-to-face meetings. For-credit cyberclasses are beginning to supplement undergrad classes, and some all-online bachelor’s degrees are cropping up.

“The pace of change is rapid, unlike anything we’ve ever seen in higher education,” said Andrew Rosman, recently hired to lead LIU Post’s business school because of his online learning expertise. “If you are a limousine company and you choose to stick with the horses and buggies, you’re going to be out of business.”

Recent startups at Ivy League universities, while not for-credit, are getting attention and elevating the reputation of online learning.

Virtual classes at Long Island schools help more students who are balancing job and family gain access to higher education. They give traditional students who want to fast-track their degrees another option and expand enrollment to students from other parts of the country and other countries, college officials said.

“The freedom is the biggest benefit,” said Giuseppe Piroto, 21, a senior at New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury. “It can also be a drawback because it requires a lot of self-motivation.”

Proponents say online courses, if done correctly, are rich in content, challenge students’ critical thinking skills and give them a unique learning experience. They also can provide for greater interaction between professors and students.

“Online, however,” say online classes can devalue the discourse that occurs during the traditional classroom experience and make it easier for less-motivated students to fall behind.

Niki Edgecombe, senior research associate at the Community College Research Center at Columbia University’s Teachers College, said her group has gathered data that suggests the completion rate in online classes for some underprepared community college students was lower than those in face-to-face classes. “There are a lot of questions out there because the evidence does suggest pretty significant challenges to teaching people remotely,” Edgecombe said.

New ways of thinking

Schools on the Island are forging ahead, moving to keep up with new technology, train faculty and make sure students are learning effectively.

At Hofstra University, where the first online class was offered in 2001, Provost Herman Berliner said the administration knew as far back as 2000 that “a massive sea change” was coming.

“For a while, I think everyone thought it [online learning] was a cheaper product,” Berliner said. “But if you’re doing it right — you can provide high-quality online experiences.”

“Virtual learning will not substitute for undergraduates’ campus
LONG ISLAND

Learning online

- TYPES OF ONLINE CLASSES
  Fully online classes have 100 percent of the coursework online.
  "Blended" or "hybrid" classes mix online coursework with face-to-face meetings. The definition varies, but typically includes any class where 30 percent to 80 percent of the work might occur online.

- HOW CLASSWORK IS DONE
  Asynchronous online courses allow students to read coursework, contribute to class discussion boards, take tests and submit assignments at times they choose, as long as they fall within the class schedule. These are the most popular because of their flexibility. Synchronous classes have a set time when students login to their computers to "meet" online during the class time.

Source: Online learning experts at various Long Island schools.

Giuseppe Prisco, 21
New York Institute of Technology, Old Westbury

The senior, doing work at home for a 3D modeling class, says of online courses: "The freedom is the biggest benefit. But it can also be a drawback because it requires a lot of self-motivation."

Charles Schwalbe, 30
Adelphi University

The Commack student, who works some 40 hours a week as a paramedic and also heads a volunteer ambulance corps, says online classes make his pursuit of a bachelor's possible.

Officials at the SUNY College at Old Westbury say their strategic plan includes growing its online courses to 100 by 2015. There are 36 blended online classes.

Farmingdale State College has offered about 80 to 100 online courses for the past three years and has created a task force to create a best practices guide for professors and students.

Saint Joseph's College in Patchogue offers two fully online bachelor's degrees and several certificate programs. The school has more than 100 online courses, according to its online programs, and is looking to expand.

"I'm not sure what the costs will be for these," he said. "But I think it's important that we're thinking about online education."
LONG ISLAND

Green energy potential

By Mark Harrington
mark.harrington@newsday.com

Long Island can produce or secure enough renewable energy — solar, wind, hydropower — to satisfy the needs of every household in the LIPA territory by 2030, and derive sufficient green energy for nearly all power needs by 2030, according to a new study.

The report, titled “A Clean Energy Vision for Long Island,” set for release today at Farmingdale State College, comes as the Long Island Power Authority is making key decisions about future energy sources, most of them fossil-fuel based. By year’s end, it could sign contracts for up to 2,000 megawatts of new power from gas plants and cable connections to distant grids, and renew a contract with National Grid to keep the current anti- nuclear steam plants producing.

The new report was authored by Synapse Energy Economics and funded by the Long Island Community Foundation and the Rauch Foundation. Synapse says on its website that it provides reports and regulatory support to consumer advocates and environmental organizations, among others.

It shows that with a strategic balance of rooftop and large, ground-mounted commercial solar arrays, an offshore wind farm supplemented with upstate land-based wind, and lesser amounts of hydropower and other renewables, Long Island could sharply reduce its need for fossil-fuel burning plants to less than one-fourth of the total supply over 20 years.

The scenario envisions using clean-energy credits earned from the renewables to purchase backup capacity from efficient gas-burning plants, which is needed for the times when wind and sun facilities aren’t producing — in the 2030 scenario representing around 25 percent of the available power.

Most of the renewable power would come from wind energy; by 2030, the report suggests, around 2,250 megawatts of offshore wind energy would be connected to the LIPA grid. There would also be some 400 megawatts of solar placed strategically around the Island.

The cost to ratepayers over the period would represent an overall increase of between 8 percent and 12 percent above LIPA’s projected rates, with the larger impact coming sooner, according to the report.

Implementation of energy-efficiency measures, designed to cut usage, would be key to reaching the goal.

It’s unclear how the new report will impact LIPA’s new energy contracts. Trustees were expected to vote on LIPA’s new energy contracts for plants this month, but it is expected that could be moved back to October, as Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo reviews plans to reform the power authority. Cuomo’s staff has been briefed on the study.

Hicksville man drowns in Lake George

A Hicksville man vacationing at Lake George in upstate Warren County died Sunday after he was found submerged in several feet of water, sheriff’s officials said yesterday.

Warren County Sheriff’s officials said Raja Podapalli, 28, was reported missing by his friends as they prepared to leave an area of the lake called Sheep’s Park. The friends, a group of about 10 visiting the area for the Labor Day weekend, told officials that Podapalli was unaccounted for and that he had not been seen leaving the water.

Lifeguards searched the area and recovered Podapalli, and along with paramedics from the Lake George Emergency Squad, were able to resuscitate him on the shore before he was taken to a hospital and admitted to the intensive care unit. He died a few hours later. Sheriff’s officials said the cause of death has been determined to be accidental drowning.

— Deborah S. Morris
David M. Carter has been elected to serve on the Farmingdale College Foundation board of directors for a three-year term. The Huntington resident is a partner with Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, a law firm located in Melville.
Making the grade

Stony Brook U. ranks on top 100 list

BY CANDICE FERRANTE

candice@newsday.com

Stony Brook University is among the top public schools and one of the best 100 universities in the nation, according to the 2013 edition of U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges rankings released yesterday.

The annual list — closely watched by students, parents and colleges — ranks schools in several categories, including national universities, regional universities and liberal arts colleges, top public schools, and best business, engineering and teaching programs. The publication uses a variety of metrics, including freshman retention, graduation rates and the strength of the faculty.

Stony Brook tied the University of Vermont in Burlington at No. 60 for top public schools and ranked No. 92 on the list of best national universities.

“The way this quantifies our efforts, which is gratifying,” said Stony Brook President Dr. Samuel L. Stanley Jr. “It is a testament to the hard work and dedicated efforts of our faculty and staff, and I applaud them for this achievement.”

Hofstra University ranked No. 184 on the national universities list, in a three-way tie with DePaul University in Chicago and Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo.

Adelphi University ranked No. 135 on the same list, which includes 210 schools.

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point came in at No. 3 on the list of regional colleges in the North that focus on undergraduate education but grant fewer than half their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. The school, which graduates naval officers, was just under Cooper Union in Manhattan at No. 1 and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., at No. 2.

The Merchant Marine Academy also was ranked No. 3 among public, regional colleges in the North. Farmingdale State Col-

lege in Farmingdale came in at No. 8 on that list.

Molloy College in Rockville Centre ranked No. 47 on a list of regional universities in the North that offer undergraduate programs, some master’s programs and a few doctoral programs.

LIU Post in Brookville came in at No. 112 on that list, tied with Holy Family University in Philadelphia and Utica College in upstate Utica.

Dowling College and SUNY College at Old Westbury received the “Ranks Not Published” designation, meaning they placed in the bottom quarter of their ranking categories, which U.S. News does not publish.

U.S. News compiled two new lists this year: “A Schools for B Students,” which cited Stony Brook, and “Up-and-Coming Schools,” which did not include any on Long Island.

Stony Brook also ranked 47th in a category that lists schools with students graduating with the least amount of debt.
Cuomo's stand on LIPA expected to delay vote

BY MARK HARRINGTON
mark.harrington@newsday.com

Community and environmental groups that have begun to take sides on newly proposed power projects for LIPA may find an unlikely ally in Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and his plan to overhaul the authority.

Long Island Power Authority trustees this month were expected to vote to authorize LIPA to contract for up to 2,500 megawatts of new power from an array of gas-fired plants, cables, a wind farm and batteries.

But that vote is expected to be postponed until at least next month, according to sources close to LIPA and its trustees, as Cuomo works to reform an agency his administration has described as "bloated."

"I think obviously it's an unsettled situation," said William Moore, chief executive of Deepwater Wind, which has a proposal to connect a planned wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island to Long Island via a cable at Shoreham.

For some, the expected delay is welcome. At a forum at Farmingdale State College yesterday, proponents of a plan that would see the LIPA grid powered solely by green-energy sources by 2030 said LIPA would be making a "mistake" if it didn't take their all-renewables vision into account.

Peter Maniscalco, of Manorville, who led opposition to the Shoreham nuclear plant 34 years ago and opposes a new proposal to put a gas-fired plant at Shoreham by 2017, called for a moratorium on new power decisions by LIPA.

"To go forward with fossil-fuel-based plants makes no sense," said Maniscalco, who conceived the idea of the all-renewables study.

But power plant proponents have other ideas. J-Power USA, the Japanese-owned company that is proposing the Shoreham plant, said it expects any reforms at LIPA to follow long after power contracts are awarded. "We're just assuming that [Cuomo's reformation of LIPA] is kind of in the future and hoping the new-generation [proposals] is approaching a resolution," said Steve Thome, vice president of J-Power. "I'd assume anything the governor will do may be in the next fiscal year."

A separate proposal for a 400-megawatt gas-fired plant near in Kings Park has also spurred opposition. Linda Henninger, president of the Kings Park Neighborhoods Association, said the group, which successfully opposed a plant there more than a decade ago, will oppose the new plant. "They are just going to run into the same amount of community opposition the last time they tried to site a plant in the same area," she said. "It was wrong then, it's wrong now."

Trustees are expected to vote later this month on a renewal of the contract for the 15 National Grid plants on Long Island, with an option to overhaul several of them. Port Jefferson Village, which has filed a complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requesting an investigation of National Grid, has also called for a moratorium on all energy project awards. It wants the Port Jefferson Power Station, owned by National Grid, to undergo a complete overhaul.

Cuomo last month said he wanted LIPA to return to its original mission as an advocate, overseer and holding company, and officials have hinted that energy decisions at LIPA could be shifted to the New York Power Authority. Last week, Cuomo spokesman Joshua Vlasto said, "We are reviewing the structure and function of LIPA and options to improve service and lower costs."

LIPA spokesman Mark Gross said the authority "will work on the two issues (reform and new power) separately, but we will coordinate the efforts where appropriate."

He added, "We will make every attempt to stay on schedule."
16 projects vie for aid

The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council will recommend 16 "priority projects" to the state in hopes of receiving $25 million in funding. Among the supported projects are four initiatives that received funding last year and the Nassau Hub re-development plan.

In a meeting yesterday, the regional council unveiled the priority projects, selected from a pool of 200 applications, that it will submit to the state tomorrow. The projects could result in the creation of more than 8,000 local jobs, said Kevin Law, co-chairman of the regional council.

Long Island will be competing for funding from the state with regional councils from Buffalo, Syracuse and the North Country, which encompasses Watertown and the Adirondacks. In 2011, the Long Island regional council was able to secure $106 million in funding — one of the highest in the state — for the program's inaugural year. The state plans on announcing this year's winners in the fall.

Redevelopment of the 77-acre Nassau Hub area, which includes the aging Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, was listed yesterday as a priority project for the first time by the council. Last year, Nassau County applied for funding but the Hub was not selected.

"Something good needs to happen there," Law said of the Nassau Hub. "We're not going to dictate what should go there or what shouldn't go there, but we know it needs support from our council and there need to be infrastructure improvements in that area."

Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano said he was grateful for the council's support, adding "I look forward to announcing a master developer to initiate the process of redevelopment of the Hub." The other initiatives chosen by the council center around economic development, medical and technological research and infrastructure on Long Island. Some of the supported projects include a biomedical research facility and incubator at Stony Brook University, aid to two commercial fishing facilities in Montauk and the building of 225,000 square feet of hangar space at Republic Airport in East Farmingdale.

Four plans that received state funding last year were deemed priority projects again by the council — the Rockokoosa Hub, Wyandanch Business District program at Long Island College, the EngNE initiative at Farmingdale State University and New York Institute of Technology.

The specific amount of funding the council is advocating for each project will be disclosed tomorrow afternoon after the proposal is officially submitted. The regional council is also recommending 73 non-priority projects to the state and LI projects for the Excelior Jobs Program, which gives technology and manufacturing companies tax credits.

With Robert Brodsky

Rue21 may expand with a dozen LI stores

Youth clothing retailer Rue21 Inc. plans to expand its Long Island reach with more than a dozen stores, according to Garden City-based Sabre Real Estate Group LLC.

The 843-store specialty apparel chain, based in Westgate, Pa., has said in its financial filings it intends to open 70 stores this year in new markets nationwide. Rue21, which has two Long Island locations, in Massapequa and Deer Park, said yesterday it retained Sabre Real Estate as its exclusive Long Island broker.

"We are very excited to roll out a successful expansion program for such a great company," said Jayson Stearn, Sabre managing principal, in a news release.

The chain "intends to open more than a dozen stores in the region," and is looking for spaces ranging between 4,000 and 5,000 square feet. Sabre said Rue21 didn't return calls for comment.

Long Island's consumer spending power as well as a surplus inventory of store space are among the factors that make Long Island an attractive region for Rue21 and other retailers, said Marshal Cohen, chief retail analyst with the NPD Group, a Port Washington-based market research firm. Companies that had put their plans on hold during the Great Recession are back in expansion mode, he said.

"It's the store that's got the upper hand rather than the landlord," Marshal said. — RUBEN MORRIS
David Carter Elected To Farmingdale College Foundation

Melville attorney to serve three-year term

David M. Carter, partner with Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP of Melville, has been elected to serve on the Farmingdale College Foundation Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Carter’s practice focuses on advising clients during all phases of strategic patent and trademark portfolio development, including: patentability studies, application preparation, and prosecution before the U.S. patent and trademark office, due diligence investigations, product clearance studies and associated opinions.

He holds membership in American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), New York Intellectual Property Law Association (NYIPLA) and Ultrasound Industry Association (UIA), medical advisory board of directors.

Registered to practice before the U.S. patent and trademark office, he has been admitted to the State Courts of New York and Washington, D.C., the United States Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

A resident of Huntington, Carter earned his JD at St. John’s University and BS in physics (cum laude) at NYIT.

The Farmingdale College Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation independent of the college that provides financial assistance in advancing the purposes and development of the college.

Farmingdale Farmers’ Market Opens

The Farmingdale Farmers’ Market opened on Sunday, Sept. 9 in Village Parking Lot #7. The seasonal market will be open on Sundays through Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Wednesdays through Nov. 21 from noon to 5 p.m.
People In The News

FSC Staff, Faculty Honored For 25 Years Of Service

Farmingdale State College (FSC) staff and faculty were recently honored for their 25 years of dedicated service to the college. Carolyn LoPalo Harrison and Dr. Daniel Marrone were among the honorees.

Harrison, resident of Melville, serves as the secretary to the LIEOC director.

Dr. Marrone is a distinguished service professor and professor of business management. He received the coveted Chancellor’s Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities in 2011, and is a resident of Bethpage.

“We honor these dedicated members of the campus community for their commitment to Farmingdale State College,” said Dr. W. Hubert Keen, president of Farmingdale State. “Our students’ success is a testament to the hard work and service of these men and women.”
Ahmed Ibrahim
Professor

Ahmed Ibrahim of Huntington recently received the Chancellor’s Award for Scholarship & Creative Activities from Farmingdale State College Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher for serving the campus and students with “absolute excellence.” Ibrahim is a professor in the college’s Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology and is an “internationally recognized expert” in the field of materials science — specifically with regard to thermally sprayed hard coatings for special applications, the college said. He has also authored two books and more than 35 pieces used in international journals or at conferences.
The architect prepared a program study, overall design, and construction administration for Nathan Hale Hall, the largest academic building on the SUNY Farmingdale campus. The building required total renovation because of large quantities of asbestos, spalling concrete and interior leaks. What once was a dark, open-air passageway through the central portion of the building’s ground floor was transformed into a light and airy gathering place for students through the use of a central skylight and opposing two-story glass curtainwalls. This central "soft space" includes a lobby, art gallery and lounge.

The design visually opens the building to the main campus and is on direct axis to the college president’s residence. The 1960s building structure was very unforgiving, constructed with long spans of concrete T beams. However, with a lot of ingenuity, the team was able to bring this building up to present teaching standards and new is a showcase renovation. This building is integrated technologically with the rest of the campus, having all new electrical systems, HVAC and cooling.

This design did not end at the outside walls, but expanded to include new environmentally friendly landscaping as well.