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January 15, 2010

**BCC LEADERS VOICE SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR PATERSON'S
PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT AND INNOVATION ACT**
-PROPOSAL COULD YIELD SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL IMPACT ACROSS STATE-

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) Broome Community College Interim President Dr. John Deans today voiced his support for Governor David Paterson's Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA).

Earlier today Governor David Patterson announced that his 2010-11 Executive Budget will include the most significant reforms to the State's system of public higher education in a generation. The Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) will provide the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York the flexibility needed to become centers of job creation. The proposed reforms would enable New York's public higher education system to become the new model of excellence that better prepares students for the jobs of the future, while also developing the jobs of today. In addition, the measures would foster the type of innovative public-private research and development partnerships that will drive New York's future prosperity.

"I'd like to voice my support and enthusiasm for the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act," said Interim President Dr. John Deans. "The proposal will provide a number of benefits to SUNY, as well as New York's Community Colleges. The PHEEIA has the potential to have a significant economic impact and reposition the Southern Tier and New York as a leader in job creation and education."

"Coming from a state with minimal state bureaucratic oversight of its higher educational system, I am thrilled by the prospect of this landmark legislation," said President Elect Dr. Kevin Drumm. "I applaud the Governor and Chancellor for their visionary approach to the future of New York and SUNY's and CUNY's critical roles in that future. The ability for the colleges and universities to be more entrepreneurial is essential for prospering in our now viciously competitive global economy!"