



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Toby Ann Stavisky

## Senator Stavisky Becomes Fifth Recipient of Presidential Medal from Queensborough Community College in 55 years

TOBY ANN STAVISKY June 6, 2016

| ISSUE: **HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Flushing, NY**—On Friday, June 3, during the 55th Commencement Exercises at Queensborough Community College, State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky became the fifth person in the college's history to receive the Presidential Medal.

The award is presented to the individual "with exceptional and longstanding commitment to public higher education." As ranking member of the higher education committee, Senator Stavisky has remained a strong supporter of community colleges and the CUNY system.

Her ties to Queensborough go back to the days when her late husband, former Senator Leonard Stavisky, worked as assistant to the President of QCC.

"Queensborough has produced remarkable students who go on to lead fulfilled lives and it is because of them that I remain a true believer in the CUNY system over the years. I am deeply moved by this honor and thank the Queensborough Community College community for this prestigious award," State Senator Stavisky said. "Seeing so many happy students and proud parents reinforced my passion for higher education and reminded me why I champion for Queensborough and CUNY each time I go to Albany."

After giving a speech before the hundreds of graduating students, the senator was surprised by QCC President Dr. Diane B. Call and her son, Evan.

“Your dedication in working with fellow state legislators – both Republican and Democrat -- has inspired remarkable support for higher education at CUNY,” said Dr. Diane B. Call, President of Queensborough Community College during her commencement address at Queensborough’s 55th Commencement Ceremony. “It is with deep gratitude for your tireless dedication and support that we present you with the Queensborough Presidential Medal, awarded only four times in the College’s fifty-five year history. This medal honors your passionate advocacy over many years on behalf of our college; our faculty, staff, and especially our students.”

Past recipients of the Presidential Medal are Governor George E. Pataki and Harriet Kupferberg in 2004; Queensborough Alumni Association President Cheryle Levine in 2010; and Dr. Eduardo Marti, former president of the community college, in 2012.

###