

# Letter: Nassau Community keeping up quality

January 10, 2014



The audit of Nassau Community College by county Comptroller George Maragos for 2006-12 highlighted areas in need of improvement for which the college has already taken specific and sustained corrective action ["Audit points to NCC 'inefficiencies,' " News, Jan. 8].

With respect to the collection of unpaid tuition and fees, the college substantially restructured processes within the financial aid office in 2010, which has helped to minimize the situation. Starting in 2011, students can no longer register for future semesters if they have unpaid balances. The college continues to seek payment from students, and, as a last resort, has increased the use of collection agencies. As a result, \$4.3 million has been collected.

In comparing administrative expenses and operating costs with other community colleges, the comptroller's simple mathematical analysis does not fully recognize the qualitative implications of NCC's lower faculty-student ratio.

With respect to the comptroller's suggestion that NCC's costs have compromised its ability to offer an affordable education, during the time frame analyzed, NCC's tuition increases averaged 3.5 percent annually, just under the SUNY community college average.

*Kenneth Saunders, Garden City*

**Editor's note:** The writer is the acting president of Nassau Community College.

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