**Gina L Sillitti - NYS Assembly 16th District**

**I write to express my deepest appreciation to the Adjunct Faculty Association for their hard work and dedication to every student attending Nassau Community College. Our Community Colleges serve not only as an institution of higher education, but as a steppingstone to the Middle Class or an opportunity to prepare for an unexpected re-entry into the workforce.**

**I owe quite a bit to our Community Colleges. Before my dad passed, my mother went back to school at one. Without much by way of childcare options, I went with her, an eight-year-old in the back of the classroom with a pack of crayons and some coloring books. I never thought much of it at the time, but looking back, her determination for a better future for me – and my siblings – created opportunities that none of us could ever have dreamed of. Community College made that possible. Teachers like you made that possible.**

**These past two years of my first term in the Assembly have been truly incredible. But despite the pushing and pulling of countless – albeit important – interests, my priority is, and will always be to make sure our next generation has the opportunities I did. A strong public education system – at every level – is the cornerstone of achieving that goal.**

**And that requires resources. It requires funding to make higher education affordable for students, and for competitive benefits to attract and retain the educators who shape, encourage, and foster those students. This year’s budget included an effort to reach those needs, but there is more to do.**

**I want you to know that the Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College has a friend in me. If there is anything I can ever do, in any capacity, please do not hesitate to let me know.**

**With deepest appreciation,**

**Gina L. Sillitti**