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News Release

For Immediate Release

**Monroe Community College Foundation
Funds New Scholarship with Aid from
New York Propane Gas Association**

Albany, NY (September 12, 2011) – The New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA) is pleased to announce a gift of \$6,000 to the Monroe Community College Foundation that will establish the John Ganey Memorial Scholarships for students enrolled full-time in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) Program at Monroe Community College (MCC).

Two \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded for the 2011-2012 academic year to help provide more qualified, well-trained technicians to meet the labor needs of the growing propane industry, particularly in upstate New York.

Recipients will be full-time students who demonstrate financial need, having completed at least 24 credits at the end of their spring semester, and having a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.50. Eligible students will be identified by MCC faculty who will select award recipients, with preference given to those interested in propane technology. Students who maintain enrollment in the program may renew the scholarship for their final semester.

Approved as an alternative clean fuel by both the National Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the Clean Air Act of 1990, propane is currently in use in nearly five million households in the U.S. for heating. That number is growing nationwide and especially in New York state, according to NYPGA. Propane gives off minimal emissions when burned and is not harmful in the ground or waterways.

"Support from the New York Propane Gas Association comes at an excellent time for MCC students," said Diane L. Shoger, executive director of the MCC Foundation. "As student interest and enrollment in our HVAC/R program continues to grow, community partners such as NYPGA help us provide students with valuable opportunities and skills to successfully pursue rewarding careers in this high-demand industry."

"The John Ganey Memorial Scholarship at MCC represents one of many awards that we are establishing at community colleges to train new technicians in the safe storage, handling and use of propane so they can join hundreds of industry personnel educated under the industry's extensive training programs throughout the country," said Joseph Porco, president of the association. He credited the industry's Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) for funding that provides each state with rebates based on its use of propane and its contribution to PERC. "More funding will be forthcoming if New York approves a similar program known as Empire PERC," Porco continued.

For more information on the value and safe uses of propane, visit www.nypropane.com and www.usepropane.com. For additional information about MCC's programs, please visit www.monroecc.edu.

Monroe Community College

The mission of Monroe Community College is to provide access to high quality education and training programs to a diverse community. Student success is the College's highest priority. In fulfilling its mission, the College is committed to excellence in teaching, comprehensiveness, lifelong learning and citizenship. The College embraces its role as a stimulus for economic development and values partnerships, innovation and educational leadership.

New York Propane Gas Association

NYPGA is a member-focused trade organization providing services that communicate, educate and promote the propane industry in New York. The association was formed in 1948 to offer opportunities for training and networking with peers, and to aid with legislative issues that contribute to operating a safe and successful industry.

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