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**For Immediate Release**

**SALEM CYBERSPACE LAUNCHES COLLEGE SUCCESS**

*Partnership with Salem State College Will Bring Enhanced Services for Incoming Freshmen*

**SALEM, Mass., (October 22, 2009)** - Salem CyberSpace, a program of North Shore Community Action Programs, Inc., in conjunction with Salem State College, announced the launch of its College Success program. College Success is a program that provides extensive services to juniors and seniors in high school as they navigate the college testing, selection, application and financial aid process and then continues to provide services to these students through their post-secondary school years into a job or graduate studies. This program, funded through a Community Development Block grant from the city of Salem and a grant from the Amelia Peabody Foundation, will serve 20 youth in its first year.

Because of the number of Salem CyberSpace students attending Salem State College, Dr. Patricia Maguire Meservey, President of Salem State College, and Linda Saris, Director of Salem Cyberspace entered into a partnership which will accommodate a Salem CyberSpace counselor resident at Salem State's Ellison Campus Center to work closely with the college's Student Academic Support Services. "Through a coordinated effort, we will assure that our students access the many services and programs offered on campus and better help them breakdown barriers to graduation by teaching them to advocate for themselves," said Linda Saris. "We in essence are their second parents, a relationship that was started while they were still in high school"

Dr. Meservey and Nate Bryant, Assistant Dean of Students, hosted the Salem CyberSpace alumni, now Salem State freshmen, at a luncheon to launch the College Success program. Dr. Meservey and Mr. Bryant had a conversation with the students

about majors, study abroad, support services available at the school, homework and school life. "It is just fabulous to see these young people as they move forward towards their dreams. We look forward to working with Salem CyberSpace," said Dr. Meservey.

Kelly Quinn will be College Success's first counselor. Ms. Quinn graduated from Salem State College in 2008 with a BA in social work and Spanish and is pursuing her masters degree in social work at Salem State. Ms. Quinn will be working closely with Nate Bryant and Todd Moellendick, Director of the TRIO Student Support Services Program.

In addition, Ms. Quinn will work with the six other CyberSpace alumni attending other colleges in the area. "We achieved our goal of greater than 90% acceptance to post-secondary education. We have now set the bar higher and have set a new goal of 100% graduation from college. As a graduate of the college, I am in a good position to mentor and advise these students. Freshman year is a difficult transition and a successful first year will make a big difference in their future achievement", said Kelly Quinn.

### **About Salem CyberSpace and North Shore Community Action Programs**

Salem CyberSpace ([www.salemcyberspace.org](http://www.salemcyberspace.org)), located at 98 Lafayette Street in downtown Salem, is a program of North Shore Community Action Programs ([www.nscap.org](http://www.nscap.org)), a 501 c (3) nonprofit organization. NSCAP is the designated anti-poverty agency serving Salem, Peabody, Danvers, Beverly and 25 cities and towns north of Boston. Its mission is to help low-income people become economically self-sufficient while encouraging the larger community to recognize and eradicate the social and economic barriers that stand between poor families and their economic independence. The goal of Salem CyberSpace (SC) is to help low-income and unemployed people, as well as the organizations that serve them, to learn new computer skills to effect positive change for themselves, their families and their communities.

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