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## **ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND ON 60,000 SQUARE-FOOT SRC ARENA**

SYRACUSE, NY – Armed with traditional gold shovels and donning hard hats, individuals who helped to make the SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College a reality “broke ground” today in an official ceremony. Led by President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D., the groundbreaking included leaders from SRC, for whom the facility is named; the OCC Foundation and Board of Trustees; the College’s *Reach Beyond* Capital Campaign team; government representatives; and Section 3 Athletics.

“We are truly honored to have with us today representatives and leaders from the business and government sectors, and a number of community organizations, reflecting the broad appeal of SRC Arena in meeting the diverse, wide-ranging needs of the campus and the community,” said Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. “The addition of SRC Arena to Onondaga Community College will mark yet another unprecedented milestone in the nearly 50-year history of the College, which now serves more than 12,000 students, including nearly 600 residential students, and more than 90,000 campus visitors annually,” she added.

SRC Arena, a 60,000 square-foot multipurpose facility with flexible seating for 6,500 people, will include a six-lane track, three basketball/volleyball/tennis courts (flexible configuration), and a 5,000 square-foot fitness center. The fitness center, along with a new swimming pool on the OCC campus, will be operated to benefit students, employees and the greater community by the YMCA of Greater Syracuse as part of the YMCA at Onondaga Community College that was announced on May 12, 2010. The SRC Arena is scheduled to open in late 2011.

“The community, led by SRC President Bob Roberts and the entire team at SRC and SRCTec, has stepped up in a tremendous way in support of this institution. The Central New York community has a significant interest in retaining more of our young people right here in this community, and with the addition of SRC Arena, I have no doubt that more of our graduating high school seniors, talented athletes and young professionals will take advantage of the outstanding opportunities right here in our area at Onondaga Community College,” said Allen

J. Naples, chairman of the OCC Foundation and President of the Syracuse Region of M&T Bank.

The naming of SRC Arena was announced a year ago, on May 15, 2009. The largest gift in the history of the College, \$1 million, was given by SRC, an independent, not-for-profit research and development organization and its subsidiary, SRCTec. Total giving to the College from SRC and SRCTec amounts to \$1.525 million, and is dedicated to the establishment of the SRC Presidential Scholarship at Onondaga Community College. SRC Arena honors the extraordinary generosity and leadership of SRC and SRCTec in establishing the scholarship.

“SRC is very proud to be in partnership with Onondaga since promoting education is our philanthropic focus. We hope that our contribution to the Presidential Scholarship Fund will make a lasting impact by training today’s youth for tomorrow’s high-tech positions. We’re pleased to participate in the ground breaking of the SRC Arena and believe the community will benefit from this new facility,” said Bob Roberts, president and CEO of SRC, Inc.

“Today is an historic day for Onondaga Community College. Through the construction of the SRC Arena project, the College is updating its physical assets, expanding its physical education and sports offerings and advancing the College mission of offering programs, services and facilities to the entire community. Those who live, work, and study at the College and all those that live in western Onondaga County will benefit greatly from the state of the art facilities and expanded community programs,” said Patrick Kilmartin, Onondaga County Legislator for the 11<sup>th</sup> District.

Onondaga Community College competes in the National Junior College Athletic Association. In the past five years, Onondaga athletic teams have captured six NJCAA national championships – 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010 in Men’s Lacrosse, an unprecedented dual national championship with Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse in 2009, and Men’s Tennis in 2008. The SRC Arena will serve the College’s 15 competitive athletic teams, the intramurals sports program, and will also host community and college events, including the annual Onondaga Community College Commencement ceremony and Section 3 athletic events.

“Having access to this facility which is located right in the heart of all 109 school districts within the Section, will not only provide a first class competition venue for our student athletes but will also help our schools save on their travel cost to outlying collegiate venues,” said John Rathbun, executive director for Section 3 Athletics.

The SRC Arena will be a self-sustaining facility whose operations will be funded by concessions and rental fees. The facility will be operated by a separate non-profit 501c(3) corporation. The cost to construct the SRC Arena is \$12.4 million

and is funded by the New York State capital construction fund (50%); Onondaga County (23%) and by the Onondaga Community College and the OCC Foundation (27%). Construction management of the SRC Arena project will be handled by C&S Companies. The architectural design is being completed by Cannon Architectural Design.

With more than 12,000 students, Onondaga Community College is the second-largest undergraduate institution in Central New York. Founded in 1961, it is a comprehensive two-year college operating under the State University of New York (SUNY) and is locally sponsored by Onondaga County. Onondaga offers nearly 50 programs of study; bachelor and master's degrees available on campus through the Regional Higher Education Center; and more than 80 other transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities. Home to three-time NJCAA national champion men's lacrosse and 2009 NJCAA women's lacrosse teams, Onondaga has [15 intercollegiate men's and women's athletic teams](#). The College also offers three modern suite-style residence halls housing 585 students. Follow Onondaga on [Twitter](#): @OnondagaCC and on [Facebook](#).