

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the Academic Senate

March 13, 2007

Three years ago, we agreed, as part of the Strategic Plan of the College, to the following goals:

1. Initiate a Community of Learners

- Create integrated teaching/learning experiences that equally challenge and support students, and that, acknowledging their preparation, invite them to be partners in intellectual inquiry.
- Adopt a holistic approach by providing a curriculum that incorporates general education, interconnected and multi-layered learning experiences.

2. Provide Students Coordinated Academic and Student Support Services

- Create an individualized plan that engages them upon entry and results in a supportive partnership for learning.
- Encourage students to take the role of active, responsible learners working collaboratively and cooperatively in the classroom and community.

3. Expand our Research Environment through the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL.)

- Continue our tradition of discipline-based research and publications and encourage the scholarship of teaching through pedagogical research an inquiry on the learning of our diverse students, resulting in pedagogical publications.
- Facilitate collaboration among our academic and instructional support staff promoting research, presentations, and publications.

4. Nurture the Development Program

- Upon the completion of the *catalyst campaigns* (Art Gallery, Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, Scholarships) that demonstrate our ability to engage in a major gift campaign, establish an ongoing program of giving that will enable us to continue to attract excellent faculty, provide scholarships for our students, and provide funding for special projects.

Each **strategic plan** creates objectives designed to advance the College toward these goals. The College Advisory Planning Committee (composed of the members of the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate, the members of the Faculty Executive Committee, the Executive Committee of the Student Government and the Vice Presidents and the President of the College) begin the yearly planning process in September with a simplified SWOT analysis and a review of the completion report from the previous year. A number of drafts are produced during the fall semester and focus groups are conducted with the Academic Department Chairs, the HEOs, and the students. We have concluded this process for the 2007-08 year and we are getting ready for presentation of the final draft to the College community at the open hearing scheduled for **Wednesday, April 18. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.**

Once we receive your input, we begin to work with the Central Office to ensure that our objectives are consonant with the goals and targets of the University. Once we come to an agreement and the Chancellor signs off on the document, we use the yearly strategic plan to formulate our expenditure plan for the academic year.

As we begin the spring semester, I am proud to report that Queensborough Community College continues to make progress toward these goals.

The progress of this holistic approach to education has been very encouraging. Our Technology and Education Academies, which allow students to collaborate with fellow students and professors, have been beneficial and motivating. As a result of our committed faculty initiatives we will be launching a third Academy in Business this fall. Now, we must review what works and what does not. As we planned, we are going to assess the success of the Academies. I eagerly await a report emanating from the experiences. We will use the findings to refine the delivery of educational services

Our fundraising effort is beginning to yield tangible results. Thirty-one students are successfully starting their second semester under the *Aspire to Success* scholarship program. *Aspire to Success* supports students who are committed to focusing on their studies by taking 15 or more credits and, thus, graduating in a timely fashion. Because CUNY launched a new initiative Accelerated Studies in Associate Programs (ASAP), funded by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the second class of *Aspire to Success* students will be delayed. Like the *Aspire to Success* scholarship program, ASAP provides guidance and support to encourage highly-motivated, college-ready students throughout the CUNY community colleges to graduate in two to three years and move forward in their education. We are currently recruiting students for the fall semester who meet ASAP's eligibility criteria, extending the initiatives of Queensborough's established *Aspire to Success* program. Our Academies will be incorporated in ASAP.

We believe that by placing our students in cohorts; by creating experiences that invite them to be partners in intellectual inquiry, we will impact the retention and graduation rate in a positive manner.

It is clear that the Introduction to College Life course is a resounding success. With over 65 sections offered, we believe that this experience is essential. The course provides our students the necessary tools for surviving the rigor of our curriculum.

Our plan is to explore e-portfolios, milestone and capstone courses to encourage our students to take on the role of active, responsible learners who work cooperatively and collaboratively in the classroom and in the community. Currently, 31 members of our faculty are engaged in a Taskforce coordinated by CETL that will develop these experiences.

The use of technology in the classroom has increased dramatically. During the fall of 2006, 306 courses used Blackboard, an e-education set of on-line course management .

Expanding Research in the Disciplines and in Pedagogy: Our faculty continues to be engaged in research. In 2005, we reported that our faculty published 44 articles and 15 books. In addition, CETL funded 5 pedagogical research projects; offered 10 workshops on pedagogy and one on research methodologies.

Fundraising:

Our *catalyst campaigns* continue to thrive. The Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives will open its spring 2007 season with the special exhibition *Diplomats of Mercy*. The exhibit acknowledges the extraordinary deeds of diplomats representing nations from around the world and their heroic efforts to help Jews during the Holocaust. Additionally, I am pleased to announce that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Kupferberg Center will take place on June 3rd. Please mark your calendar, as we hope you will join us for this momentous occasion. Harriet Kupferberg's historic donation has resulted in the Center's naming on behalf of her and her late husband Kenneth. Her leadership gift has now prompted other friends of the Holocaust Center to demonstrate their support by selecting from a variety of naming opportunities within our new Center.

Connecting With Our Alumni

This past October, our first Alumni Homecoming event proved to be a great opportunity to reconnect with Queensborough's thousands of graduates. Now, we are looking to our alumni to support the teams of students, staff and faculty who are participating in our first annual student scholarship fundraiser, *Walk to Aspire*, on May 9th. Sponsored by the QCC Fund Board, the walkathon will raise funds for future student scholarships. Our goal is to instill a spirit of college giving among our current students, soon to be our alumni.

The 20th Annual Partners for Progress Gala

You will soon be receiving your invitation to our 20th Annual Partners for Progress Gala. As members of the Queensborough community, we hope you will join us in celebrating nearly five decades of commitment to quality education at our yearly major fundraising event. This year, our list of distinguished Gala honorees are: Steven Blank, Editor and Publisher of the Times Ledger Newspapers, as the Corporate Partner of the Year; Marlene Tseng Yu, Artist, as the QCC Art Gallery Partner of the Year; and Charlene Prounis '76, Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Flashpoint Medica, as the Alumni Partner of the Year. The Partners Gala will take place at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on April 26. To make a reservation, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 718-281-5144.

Opportunity for free tickets to the Gala and the Cash Raffle:

Although Gala tickets are half-price @ \$125 each for our own faculty and staff, we realize that the tickets are still expensive. Faculty or staff who are interested in obtaining a free ticket to the Gala have the option of working with the Advancement Office to sell ads for the Gala Journal or tickets for this year's Cash Raffle (you don't have to be present to win!).

For example, for every \$250 in "new" ads for the Partners Journal, an individual is eligible to receive a free Gala ticket or a free raffle ticket. Or, you may prefer to sell raffle tickets for a chance to win \$5,000, \$1,000 or \$500 (only a limited quantity of tickets are being sold). For every 5 raffle tickets sold @\$50 each, you will receive 1 free raffle ticket, or, if 10 raffle tickets are sold, you will receive 1 free raffle ticket and a free Gala ticket.

New Faces:

We continue to attract wonderful new faculty. Since the fall 2006, we were joined by 26 new faculty members. We are in the process of recruiting new faculty members for the fall 2007 semester.

In addition, as of March 5th we have a new Chief Librarian. Professor **Jeanne Galvin** comes to us after serving 19 1/2 years at Kingsborough. We are looking forward to her leadership of our Library.

A new Coordinator of the Undergraduate Initiative joined our ranks. Dr. **Anthony DeLuca** joins us after working at LGA for five years.

Middle States Associate Director, Dr. Michael Kiphart visits the College. As part of the preparation for the Evaluation Team visit scheduled for the spring of 2009, Dr. Kiphart will meet with the MSA Steering Committee, a member of the Board of Trustees, the Vice Presidents and the President on **March 6th**. At the Senate meeting I will give a verbal report on the visit.

Congratulation to our students: Dr. Patricia Schneider sent the following e-mail.

On Friday, February 23, 2007, The CUNY Graduate Center hosted the 10th annual CUNY Conference in Science and Engineering; Minority Science Initiatives in CUNY's Decade of Science.

We are proud to announce that

- QCC-NIH Bridges to the Future Program was the only community college based research program to give a presentation
- RIMS/Bridges students **Nadia Aboley and Rafael Perez** were the only community college students that gave poster presentations
- Nadia won **first prize** in a poster session that included 50 undergraduate and graduate submissions.

Congratulations to both students and mentors! Drs. Sullivan and Rotenberg.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PETITIONS TO RUN FOR ELECTION AS A MEMBER OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE IS MARCH 14TH AT 5:00 P.M.