



**Report of the President  
to the  
Academic Senate**

**November 11, 2014**

**Enrollment Update**

- Direct Admission for Spring 2015 is open, and we continue to receive phases of admitted students from the University. Our new enrollment targets for the spring are 900 freshmen and 720 transfer students.

**Academic Advisement and Registration**

- Continuing Student Academic Advisement and Registration for Winter/Spring 2015 is well underway. Continuing students who are required to see an adviser before registration have been contacted to schedule an appointment with their Academy Adviser. Advisement & registration communications include Tigermail Blasts, Digital Signage, & Postcards. Advisement & registration appointments for new students begin on Tuesday, November 11th.

**Student Outreach**

- The Office of Admissions hosted another very successful Open House on Saturday, November 8th. Prospective students, their families and guests visited our campus to meet with faculty, tour the facilities and attend presentations on the Academies, and workshops on *How to Pay for College* and more.

**Student Accomplishments and Opportunities**

- Celebrating the third annual *Degree Completion* project in early October, 1,016 students signed a "completion pledge" during a week of activities aimed at motivating students to finish their QCC degree. This program is state wide and sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa. The success of this year's program owes much to the leadership of PTK faculty advisors Dr. Paris Svoronos, Dr. Emily Tai, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, and student officers of the campus PTK chapter.
- *The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation* awarded QCC a three-year grant, of up to \$100,000 per year, for three years, to provide one-time, emergency grants to students in good standing with short-term financial emergencies to enable them to remain in school, rather than being forced to leave or drop out. Thus far, the college has awarded \$65,000 in emergency funding to students in need of assistance. Ms. Veronica Lukas, Executive Director of Student Financial Services, will be sending periodic e-mail reminders to the college community outlining the grant eligibility and encouraging

faculty and staff to refer students to apply. Ms. Denise Scalzo, Associate Director of Student Financial Services, will serve as the Grants Manager for this campus initiative. Please refer students with short-term financial emergencies to Ms. Scalzo at your earliest convenience. Additional information can be found at [www.qcc.cuny.edu/scholarships](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/scholarships).

- Faculty and staff are asked to encourage our students to take advantage of the valuable and free resources available through *the QCC Single Stop Program*. A list of the services provided include (but are not limited to) financial benefits screening, financial counseling, legal assistance, tax preparation services and more. Additional information can be found on their website at [www.qcc.cuny.edu/singlestop](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/singlestop).
- This year, the University (and QCC) joined a new national initiative as a partner school with *The Dream US Scholarship America Program* to assist undocumented students in obtaining scholarships. The Dream US Scholarship America Program provides college scholarships to highly motivated undocumented students who entered the United States as minors under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protect Status (TPS), and who, without financial assistance, cannot afford a college education. All funding is provided by private donations to The Dream USA organization. Twelve QCC students applied For the Fall 2014 scholarship. An announcement of the scholarship winners is expected by December.

### **BTECH Update**

- The BTECH fall semester is well underway. Students are enrolled in high school courses in English Language Arts, Algebra 1, Physics, US History, Physical Education, Introduction to Business, and a College and Career Seminar. In addition, those students at or below grade level in Mathematics and English Language Arts, attend Learning Labs. Mid-term assessments are being measured with parent-teacher conferences in progress. As a lesson in educational accountability as well as self-advocacy and presentation skills, students are preparing for and leading their own parent-teacher conferences. The new Transition, Intervention and Enrichment (TIE) sub-committee has begun work to enlist QCC student tutors to assist in the Learning Labs, in a service learning project, and in the design and implementation of the first year SAP mentor program.

### **Assessment Update**

- This semester, twenty-one QCC faculty colleagues participated in the Assessment Institute, offered every semester since spring 2013. Faculty participants created course assessment plans on which they will report at the end of this term. As in the past, all reports will be posted to the College website.
- *The Senate Committees on Assessment and Curriculum* have reviewed the Status Report from the *General Education Assessment Task Force*, and have approved the task force recommendation to review all the Educational Objectives/Outcomes prior to preparing rubrics for all the outcomes. This recommendation will be presented to the Academic

Senate for approval. In the meantime, the Task Force is working to complete a rubric (or rubrics) for cross-disciplinary assessment of Queensborough's Educational Outcome number one: Communicate effectively through reading, writing, listening and speaking. Trial assessment of two Educational Outcomes, Communication and Analytical Reasoning, using the Task Force-developed rubrics, will take place during the spring semester.

### **FY 15 Budget Update**

- Our FY 15 financial plan was prepared in accordance with the priorities established in our FY 15 Strategic Plan, as developed via the college advisory planning process. Under the leadership of our Budget Director, Marc Carpentier, a "zero based" budget process was implemented that established base, one-time and recurring budget requests from all College departments. This process was designed to ensure maximum utilization of our resources in support of our Strategic Plan. The 2015 budget for this academic year assumes flat FTE enrollment from last year, includes the final rational tuition increase. This allows the College to continue to invest in our Compact priorities of adding full time faculty, student support services and personnel and infrastructure improvements. Although we do not yet know the fiscal implications of a labor contract agreement to the College, our budget is stable, and includes a prudent reserve. The strategic planning process for fiscal year 2016 is underway in conjunction with the College Advisory Planning Committee.

### **Upcoming Events**

- The annual SGA Multicultural Festival will take place on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. in the Student Union Lounge. The Multicultural Festival celebrates the diversity of our campus community, and features a cultural showcase through music, dance, and food. All members of the QCC Community are invited to attend!
- CUNY Citizenship Now! Free Citizenship Application Assistance event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Student Union Lounge. Pre-registration is required as only the first 60 applicants will be served. Please encourage students to contact Ms. Amawati Gonesh in the Single Stop Office L-432A at 718-631-6347 or call CUNY Citizenship Now directly 212-568-4679 from 9am-5pm Monday through Friday to RSVP.
- Queensborough's *Presidential Lecture Series* will host Dr. Chase Robinson, President of the CUNY Graduate Center and Distinguished Professor of History, on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 p.m. in M-136. Dr. Robinson's lecture, "*Not an Obvious Thing to do: Being a Scholar of Islamic History*," will focus on what led him to devote his academic career to the study of Islamic history. As a specialist in early Islamic history, Dr. Robinson has authored or edited seven books and more than forty articles on the subject.

- The Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives (KHRCA) is sponsoring a number of events this term:
  - On Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the KHRCA, Dr. Arthur Flug, Executive Director of the Kupferberg Holocaust Center and Archives will present a lecture: ***Was Superman Jewish and Why Did Nazis Hate Him?*** Dr. Flug will explore reproductions of some of the comics and reviews art collections that helped to defeat the Nazis.
  - ***The Golden Age of Second Avenue*** will be screened on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in the KHRCA. This film is a chronicle of Yiddish theatre in America, from its beginnings at the turn of the century to its present place in the folklore of American Jewish life.
  - Dr. Susan Zucotti will present a lecture entitled, ***Under His Very Windows: The Vatican and the Holocaust in Italy*** on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Zucotti's presentation will highlight instances of aid to Italy's Jews provided by Catholics, but concludes that these acts were performed spontaneously.
  - ***Sophie Scholl: The Final Days***, a film that movingly portrays Germany's most famous anti-Nazi heroine will be shown at the KHRCA on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Sophie Scholl, a vibrant young woman, was willing to face death for her belief in her ideals and those of the White Rose, an underground resistance movement to which she belonged.
  
- The Art Gallery will inaugurate an exhibit of Jozsef Jakovits's work on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. This exhibit depicts 20<sup>th</sup> century Hungary as seen through the artist's eyes and touches on the Hungarians' complex historical links with America and the important ways that this relationship has enabled the nurturing of human rights. The Gallery received a \$20,000 grant from the Hungary Initiatives Foundation for this project.