



President's Report to the Academic Senate

October 13, 2015

ENROLLMENT ACTIVITIES

- Spring Admission Activity will officially begin with the first allocation of freshmen applications arriving on October 15th, while the first allocation of transfer applications has already arrived and is currently being processed by the Admissions office.
- Outreach has begun through Hobsons email and phone calls to students who did not attend last semester, offering them an option to reactivate. These students received personal outreach from the Department of New Student Engagement, a newly formed pre-enrollment unit under Student Affairs.
- The Department of New Student Engagement was set-up to provide support and perform outreach to students during the critical "Pre-Enrollment" period. Working closely with key college units such as Admissions, Financial Aid, Bursar, Testing, and Academy Advisement, the Department of New Student Engagement, led by Dr. Carol Alleyne, will create the programming and processes necessary to engage and assist students to successfully navigate this pre-enrollment period. This resource unit will help students prepare for and understand the importance of the CUNY placement exams (offering test "orientation" sessions in spring and in the fall); inform students of their college financial responsibilities and how to meet them, through in-person information sessions, in partnership with our Financial Services Department; provide students with the information and support they need to make a successful transition from high school to college, through family welcome sessions and an orientation program focused on the personal and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college, and academic success at QCC.
- Academic Advisement is currently underway for current QCC students, with registration taking place beginning on Monday, November 9th for those who have a 2.0 GPA or better. Those with under a 2.0 GPA can register starting Thursday, November 12th after they have met in person with an academic advisor.

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES and SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- *The QCC Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship* is awarded to tenured faculty, and recognizes a "sustained and distinguished record of scholarship or creative performance, evidenced by publications, professional presentations, and/or creative works." In the Spring 2016 semester, there will be an appropriate ceremony to honor the individuals chosen by the selection committee. The selection process begins now with nominations from the academic departments or directly from faculty members who wish to nominate

themselves. For each nominee, the department or the individual will forward to the selection committee a one-page statement, a current curriculum vita, copies of publications, and evidence of professional presentations and creative works. The selection committee will consist of three academic department chairs elected by all the department chairs, and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs who will preside without a vote. The selection committee will evaluate the nominees according to the criteria that have been used in the previous rounds of the QCC Faculty Excellence Awards, that is, a sustained and distinguished record of scholarship and/or creative achievement as evident in the supporting documentation. Please submit your nominations via the attached form along with supporting materials by ***Friday, December 11, 2015***, to the Office of Academic Affairs.

- ***The Faculty Mentoring Program:*** The faculty mentoring program supports department-designated mentors for new faculty members. Mentors meet to discuss useful strategies to guide their mentees in adjusting to their new environment. Mentors assist their colleague mentees in navigating the complexities of campus issues and in learning about service commitments, grant opportunities, professional development, and scholarly growth.

OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- Emergency funding is available to students who face a financial crisis that puts at risk their continued enrollment toward their QCC degree. Supported through a \$300,000 grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, the funds 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. 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.
- Faculty and staff are asked to encourage our students to avail themselves of the valuable and free resources through the QCC Single Stop Program, located in the Library Building, room L 432a, ext 6347. 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.
- Last year, CUNY began a partnership with The Dream. US Scholarship Program to assist undocumented students in obtaining scholarships. The Dream.US Scholarship 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.US organization. The Fall 2014 application period will offer the following scholarship opportunities, with an application deadline of **October 26, 2014**. Please refer students to apply at www.thedream.us.

FACULTY AND STAFF HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Congratulations to Dr. M. Chantale Damas, (Physics), who led the effort to secure a \$750,000 NASA STEM Grant for Queensborough to *Explore New Frontiers in STEM Education* under the "CUNY-NASA Solar and Atmospheric Research Program and Education Partnership (CUNY-NASA SOLARPREP) ". Queensborough is one of only four community colleges across the nation to receive the award, which is designed to provide student training and expand course offerings to students in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) discipline. The Principal Investigator of this project, Dr. Damas notes: "This grant presents a wonderful opportunity to further establish our relationship with NASA and to encourage motivated students and faculty at the community college level to engage in research in solar, geospace and atmospheric physics under the umbrella discipline of space weather". Dr. Damas explained that space weather is an area of study that requires knowledge of more than one STEM discipline. Space weather can have a severe impact on both space- and ground-based technological systems, and it is a great topic to get students thinking about and interested in STEM. Of course, mention NASA and students are totally hooked!
- Queensborough is the recipient of a \$225,000 grant from Educause, for *Integrated Planning & Advising for Student Success (iPASS)*, one of only 24 institutions in the country to receive this prestigious award. Created with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, the initiative will help two-and four-year higher education institutions launch comprehensive iPASS technologies by 2018. This new integrative approach to student success promotes shared ownership for educational progress among students, faculty, and staff encompassing services that help students formulate and advance toward educational goals. iPASS includes tech-enabled advising, counseling, progress tracking, and academic early alerts. Congratulations on this recognition to Dr. Paul Marchese, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. Margot Edlin, Interim Assistant Dean, Office of Academic Affairs.

STUDENT HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- At the conclusion of the Spring 2015 NYSMATYC contest, QCC came in first place in New York State out of 23 participating colleges. Top scorers were QCC students Mr. Zhenping Wang (2nd place), Mr. Zhenkang Yang (6th place), Mr. Tao Hong (8th place), Mr. Shuai Ma (10th place), and Mr. Tak Kit Yeung (13th place). In addition, scores from the Spring 2015 contest were combined with the scores from the Fall 2014 contest. For the combined results, QCC came in first place in New York State out of 30 colleges. Top scorers were QCC students Mr. Zhenkang Yang (1st place), Mr. Tak Kit Yeung (6th place), Mr. Zhenping Wang (10th place), and Mr. Mengying Lee (19th place).

GENERAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE

- The report on the June 2015 evaluation of student artifacts using the rubrics for Communication and Analytic Reasoning has been posted on the General Education Assessment Task Force site, at <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/assessment/geatf.html>, under Progress Reports. The five rubrics which the Task Force wrote and used are posted on the site as well. This semester the Task Force members have drafted rubrics for two additional general education outcomes: Quantitative Literacy and Information Management. These will be tested and adjusted before they are distributed. Artifacts will be collected and evaluated in Spring 2016 using all of the rubrics created so far. The task force is discussing what types of assignments might work best to demonstrate the College's general education outcomes. As the task force reviews the whole set of general education outcomes, it is looking at a variety of models at other institutions.

BTECH UPDATE

- BTECH began its second year with 110 ninth grade freshmen. Work to develop Indicators of Student Readiness took place during the summer months and September with Queensborough faculty from our Department of Speech and Communication, and BTECH high school teachers. An SAP conference on *Big Data* was attended by Dr. Belle Birchfield (ET), Dr. Wendy Ford (Business), and Ms. Debra Maslanko (Mathematics and Computer Science) to gain information about industry and labor market needs in Business and Technology to inform curriculum development in these sectors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- On Thursday, October 22, at 5:30 PM in the Student Union, the campus community is invited to our annual *Celebration of Service* honoring faculty and staff who have worked at the College for 20, 30, 40, and 50 years! This year we will celebrate with Ada Alvira (Budget & Financial Services), Amy Baltajian (Registrar), Mark Berman (Information Technology), Mark Blasi (Buildings and Grounds), Emilie Fetik (Finance & Administration), John Gordon, Ph.D. (Mathematics & Computer Science), Patricia Gorton (English), Cheryl Levine (Personnel), Twana Lindsay (Accounting & Related Entities), Denise Martinez (History), Janet Rhein (Pre-College, Continuing Education & Workforce Development), JoAnn Rollo (Social Sciences), Irina Rutenburg, Ph.D. (Chemistry), Teresa Salas (Biological Sciences & Geology), Patricia Schneider, Ph.D. (Biological Sciences & Geology), Carol Soto (Nursing), Stanley Zapasnik (Buildings & Grounds), Stuart Asser (Engineering Technology), Robert Becker, Ph.D. (English), Sandra Bygrave Dozier, Ph.D. (Counseling Center), Arpy Coherian (Pre-College, Continuing Education & Workforce Development), Francis Fanelli (Information Technology), Pedro Irigoyen (Chemistry), David Klarberg, Ph.D. (Biological Sciences & Geology), Alexandra Tarasko (Nursing), George Muchita (Academic Affairs), and celebrating 50 years of full-time service, Dinah Moché, Ph.D. (Physics). We are also honoring the following adjuncts who have worked at Queensborough continuously for 20 years: Roslyn Andela (English), Melvin Bernstein (Mathematics), Joel Forrester (Health, Physical Education & Dance), Vincent Hanzich (Health, Physical Education &

Dance), Fred Heinz (Engineering Technology), Ihor Jadlicky (Physics), Stephen Kanfer (Business), Arlene Kemmerer (Academic Literacy), Joel Marcus (Mathematics), Peter Miceli (Academic Computing Center), Joseph Seiter (Engineering Technology), and Joseph Vallone, Ph.D. (Mathematics).

- The **Fall Presidential Lecture** will be given by **Dr. Benjamin Bederson** on Wednesday, October 28th, in M136. Dr. Bederson was recruited while a sophomore at The City College/CUNY to work on the development of the atomic bomb in New Mexico during World War II. As a scientist and a participant-observer in a historic event, Dr. Bederson will speak on his *experience From Army Private to Atomic Physicist for the Manhattan Project*. At 93 years old, Dr. Bederson offers an extraordinary opportunity to learn of the life and times of scientists from around the world who collaborated on this top secret project. As customary, invitations to this event will be sent to the QCC campus community, our retirees and friends of the College.