



**President's Report**  
to the  
**Academic Senate**

**September 13, 2016**

Welcome to the Fall 2016 term!

There are many impressive qualities and traditions at QCC: rigorous academic programs, outstanding faculty, a personalized educational experience, and comprehensive support services for our students. All are made possible only because of our greatest strength--- *collaboration* within and across disciplines and divisions.

Many thanks to members of the College community, especially our staff in Admissions, Financial Aid, Advisement, Testing, Registrar, Bursar, Human Resources, Academic Department offices, and Building and Grounds, who worked throughout the summer to ready our new and continuing students, new colleagues, and our facilities for the Fall 2016 semester.

I would like to share some news and highlights of our collective accomplishments.

**Faculty Update**

- We begin this year with 403 full time faculty (who will be joined by 21 faculty members in CLIP and CUNY Start) and 45 CLTs ---a great blend of experience and fresh eyes/insight/perspectives. For the fall term, 23 new faculty were appointed from searches, including 2 CLTs --and 15 substitute faculty appointments were made with these positions expected to be filled with permanent faculty through searches conducted this year. These new colleagues join the seven faculty colleagues who began last January. Thank you to those who served on search committees!!! We can celebrate that our faculty-student ratio this fall will be 28.5---the lowest in more than ten years!

**Enrollment Update**

- This Fall term, almost 16,000 students have been enrolled, including more than 1500 high school students taking QCC courses at their site. Over 3300 first time freshmen, and about 1000 new transfer students were registered over a very busy summer for our Enrollment Management team and academy advisors. A significant multimedia marketing campaign to recruit students from Long Island, led to an increase of Nassau county students who registered at QCC. A tuition reciprocity policy permits residents of counties neighboring NYC to pay NYC tuition rates.

- Advisement and registration of New and Continuing students for this fall term began last March and once again, closed out the registration cycle with a “one-stop” enrollment operation in the Student Union, allowing students to complete all their registration activities in one location. Over 6200 new and continuing students were served in the Student Union Lounge in the six weeks leading up to the first day of classes. Our deep appreciation to the many advisors and staff who have worked so very hard with our students for many months to ensure a successful enrollment effort!
- Since the launch of this year’s admissions cycle, *the Office of New Student Engagement*, led by Dr. Carol Alleyne, provided pre-enrollment services to prospective students who filed for Fall 2016 admission. This outreach program included many activities to educate incoming students about financial planning, the importance of the placement tests, and the transition to college—being independent and being accountable for attendance and academic assignments. More than 12,000 applicants and their families were invited to *Strategy and Resource workshops* and *Welcome Sessions* to increase academic, personal and financial readiness for college success, drawing 714 attendees!
- The Office of New Student Engagement also hosted a successful *New Student Orientation* on August 20<sup>th</sup> for incoming students and their families. Over 750 new students and their family members were introduced to the College, their respective Academy, faculty coordinators, and academy advisers. The Orientation Program featured small group sessions to encourage discussions between Academy Advisers and students, and to facilitate social interaction and connectedness among students. A Student Services Expo was held to showcase the wide array of student activities, supports and resources available to students across the Campus. In addition, Academy Advisers reviewed the New Student Survival Guide which provides advice, resources, College expectations and an overview of the student journey at QCC.

#### **Special Accomplishments this Past Year**

- Through the leadership of Dr. David Humphries and Dr. Regina Rochford, the departments of English and Academic Literacy merged, creating a *Department of English* with 62 full time faculty and 3 CLTs, the largest in CUNY. To accommodate the expanded department, a faculty office suite was completely remodeled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Humanities, along with the addition of two computer labs and a Conference room.
- Our *Department of Speech and Theatre Arts* earned the prestigious NAST (National Association of Schools of Theatre) certification, after several years of self-study and a rigorous external review. QCC is 1 of only 8 community colleges in the US to receive this program certification.
- Last May, QCC received approval of a new degree program in Public Health, sponsored by our Department of Biological Sciences and Geology, and in collaboration with the Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance.

- This month, the CUNY Board of Trustees is expected to approve our 10<sup>th</sup> dual/joint degree program!!! The program, *Computer Science and Internet Security* with John Jay is sponsored by the Department of Engineering Technology. It is our fourth dual joint degree program with John Jay College.
- A new 3 D Printing laboratory has been established in the Engineering Technology Department. The lab boasts advanced equipment, including the Statusys J 750 which will offer many opportunities for manufacturing partnerships— such as with medical companies for the development of prosthetics. Queensborough is one of only 7 colleges/universities in the country to have this special equipment. QCC is in good company with UCLA, NYU, Rochester Institute of Technology and Columbia University!
- This summer the Office of Marketing and Communications led a full redesign of our website - over 10,000 pages of content - reformatted and optimized for navigation with mobile devices AND it improves access to information for people with disabilities as well as compliance with new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) recommendations.
- Our Department of Information Technology upgraded our Email system, adding *new opt* in list serves for Faculty Dialogue and Community Dialogue. Also improved is our Internet speed: Last year, the campus bandwidth was increased from 1.2 Gbps to 2.0 Gbps. IT is now working with CUNY Central Office to increase bandwidth to 10 Gbps, expected to be operational in the next couple of months. Some of the recent trenching on campus was for this project.

### **Facilities Update**

- Almost ten years in the making, *the Atrium* at the Science Building is open, providing our campus community with a wonderful space for dining and socializing. This first of two construction phases, this project includes a new elevator in the Science Building (expected to be in operation this term). The second phase will launch in the next year, with the construction of kitchen facilities in the lower level of the Science Building, and the full enclosure of the Atrium.
- Thirty-one Podia rooms were added/remodeled this summer. A joint effort of ACC, IT, & B&G, the project includes 18 new smart rooms, with another 13 older technology systems replaced. By the end of this academic year, all instructional rooms will be technology-equipped
- Many classrooms and labs have been remodeled in the Technology and Science Buildings, along with the upgrade of three laboratories for the Chemistry Department.
- In the RFK building, several classrooms were renovated, along with office renovations for adjunct faculty, our new Athletic Director and academic advisor
- A number of security cameras were added, now totaling 228 throughout the campus (exterior and interior), along with the installation of 8 blue light emergency telephones in parking lots, with three located by the track.
- Last May, a new athletic track was installed, with our QCC Tiger logo proudly displayed!
- The Oakland Dining room was renovated, and the Loggia update is underway.
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- The \$62 million capital project to upgrade our electrical service, data, and sewer lines continues.

**Faculty Grant Awards:** *Our College faculty has been very active in winning grant awards and honors since the spring. Please join me in congratulating our colleagues:*

- Dr. Wilma Fletcher-Anthony (Department of Counseling) was awarded a fellowship grant of \$1,422 by the Center for Global Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for her project, *Internationalization of a Culturally Diverse Community College Campus*.
- Dr. Jodi Van Der Horn-Gibson (Speech Communication & Theatre Arts) received an award of \$4,000 from the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society for the project, *Community College Students in Action, Reflection & Transformation (ART), Contemplative Reflections on Identity Construction through Theatre of the Oppressed Techniques*.
- Dr. Mirna Lekic (Music) was awarded a \$3,665 grant by the CUNY Diversity Projects Development Fund for her project, *Eastern Currents: Contemporary Music of Asia*.
- Under the Perkins Grant, the New York State Education Department awarded Queensborough a seventh year of funding for six programs led by: Dean Jeffrey Chen (Workforce Development), Prof. Stu Asser (Engineering Technology), Prof. Georgina Colalillo (Nursing), Academic Affairs Specialist Ms. Jennifer Williams (Starfish Early Alert), Chairperson Kathleen Villani (Business), and Dr. Isabella Lizzul (Massage Therapy).
- Dr. Patricia Schneider (Biology) was awarded a grant of \$311,522 from the National Institutes of Health for the Queensborough Community College *Bridges to Baccalaureate Program* to provide and improve training and support to students in the biomedical/ sciences and behavioral sciences.
- CUNY Community College Collaborative Grants (C3IRG) were awarded to four QCC faculty initiated projects: Dr. Lakersha Smith (Social Sciences) and Dr. Rommel Robertson (Social Sciences) will lead the project, *What They Thought They Knew: Knowledge Construction and Expectancy in Community College Classrooms*; Dr. Sujun Wei (Chemistry) and Prof. Gina M. Florio (Chemistry) will lead the project, *Synthesis and Investigation of Molecular Transistors and Wires Based on Carbozole Motif*; Prof. Ahmed Mohamed and Dr. M. Chantale Damas (Physics) will lead the project, *Modeling, Assessing, and Forecasting GMDs and their Impacts on the NYS Power System*; Prof. Areti Tsimounis (Biological Sciences and Geology) will lead the project, *The Influence of Sensory Experience on Supragranular Projection*.

And... Congratulations to the 35 QCC faculty members awarded PSC-CUNY grants for 2016-2017:

- Dr. Kathleen Alves (English) – *Body Language: Medicine and the Eighteenth-Century Novel*
- Dr. Aliza Atik (English) – *Vivisection and Evolutionary Genealogies in Victorian Fantasy*
- Dr. Aranzazu Borrachero (Foreign Languages & Literatures) – *Stolen motherhoods: Traffic in Minors During the Francois Dictatorship and the Spanish Democratic Transition*
- Dr. Sunil Dehipawala (Physics) – *Arsenic absorption by plants and role of iron*

- Prof. Noelia Diaz (English) – *Resisting Neoliberalism and Patriarchy: On Raftery’s Hill (2000) by Marina Carr and La escualida familia (2001) by Lola Arias*
- Dr. Robin Ford (English) – *Resistance is not Futile: Theorizing Student’s Experiences in Spaces of Literacy*
- Dr. George Fragopoulos (English) – *The Desire of Letters: The Literary Correspondence of Laura (Riding) Jackson and Bernadette Mayer*
- Dr. Jonathan Funk (Mathematics & Computer Science) – *The Isotropy in Topos Theory with Applications to Semigroups*
- Dr. Tirandai Hemraj-Benny (Chemistry) – *Exfoliation of Single-Celled Carbon Nanotube Bundle Using Microwave and Molecularly Engineered Ionic Liquids*
- Dr. Sasan Karimi (Chemistry) – *A New Synthesis of Pyrroles Using the Cadogan Approach*
- Dr. Matthew Lau (English) – *Stephen Jay Gould: A Life of Science in the Republic of Letters*
- Dr. Mirna Lekic (Music) – *Eastern Currents: Contemporary Music of Asia, A Recording Project Featuring Ensemble 365*
- Prof. Anissa Mack (Art & Design) – *20th Anniversary/ The Durham Fair*
- Dr. Azita Mayeli (Mathematics & Computer Science) – *Translations Bases, Sampling and Interpolation Sets*
- Dr. Robert McAlear (English) – *Destiny and Change*
- Dr. Trevor Milton (Social Sciences) – *All American: Exploring the Boundaries of Post-Racial American Identity*
- Dr. Peter Novick (Biology & Geological Sciences) – *Genome Ecology of Retrotransposons*
- Dr. Amos Orlofsky (Biology & Geological Sciences) – *Regulation of Glucose Transport in Muscle Cells by an Intracellular Parasite*
- Dr. Davide Pham (Mathematics & Computer Science) – *Lie Groupoids, Frobenius Algebras, and Category Theory*
- Dr. Angela Ridinger-Dotterman (English) – *Fit for Nothing but a Lunatic Asylum: The Real History of Involuntary Commitment and the Suppression of Voice in Laura Curtis Bullard’s Christine*
- Dr. Julia Rothenberg (Social Sciences) – *Race, Class, Culture and the Remaking of Chicago’s South Side*
- Dr. William Ryan (English) – *A New Strange Disease: The Medical Study in the Atlantic World*
- Dr. Maurizio Santoro (Foreign Languages & Literatures) – *The Delayed Development of the Discourse-Pragmatic Properties of Null and Over Subjects in Spanish L2 Grammars: A Representational or Processing Problem?*
- Dr. Mark Schiebe (English) – *The Rembrandts of Investment: Art & Money in Theodore Dreiser’s Trilogy of Desire*
- Dr. Regina Sullivan (Biology & Geological Sciences) – *The effect of Collagen Coated Single Walled Carbonnanotubes on Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cells*
- Dr. John Talbird (English) – *Lighthouses (a novel)*
- Dr. Meghmala Tarafdar (English) – *Cultural Metaphors in the Works of South Asian Immigrant Women*
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- Dr. Elizabeth Toohey (English) – *Post-9/11 Hollywood: "Little Miss Sunshine" and the Collapse of the American Dream*
- Dr. Amy Traver (Social Sciences) – *An Interdisciplinary Study of Community College Students' Learning Regarding Gender, Mass Violence and Genocide*
- Dr. Monica Trujillo/ Dr. Naydu Carmona (Biology & Geological Sciences) – *Tagging SCO3855 with GFP*
- Dr. Agnieszka Tuszynska (English) – *Lessons on Intersectionality in the Writing of Marita Bonner*
- Dr. Sujun Wei (Chemistry) – *Impact of Length and Linkers in Fluorene Single Molecular Wires*
- Dr. Kathleen Wentrack (Art & Design) – *Collaboration, Empowerment, Change: Women's Art Collectives*
- Dr. Fei Ye (Mathematics & Computer Science) – *On Adjoint Linear Systems on Algebraic Surfaces*
- Dr. Tanya Zhelezcheva (English) – *The Soul Exerted with Pleasure: Thomas Traherne's Conceptualization of Happiness and the Protestant Ascetic Tradition*

### **Other Grant Awards**

- Ms. Bonnie Flaherty (Pre-College, Continuing Education & Workforce Development) was awarded a \$9,100 grant by the CUNY College Fund for Queensborough's *CUNY Summer Start program*.
- Vice President Denise Ward and Dean Jeffrey Chen (Pre-College, Continuing Education & Workforce Development) were awarded a \$133,000 grant by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation for their project, *Deconstructing the Current Legislative Effects on the Role of Medical Assistants*.
- Vice President Denise Ward and Project Director Ms. Sherri-Ann Simmons Terry were awarded an extension of the *21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant* to immerse high school and middle school students in the campus community through academic and youth development programs.

**Ahead this academic year:** *Based on consultation with governance leaders and our faculty, staff and students, the areas of focus for our 2016-17 Strategic Plan and activities will be:*

- Faculty and Staff Development
- Curriculum
- Academics
- College Readiness
- Technology
- Community building/focus on diversity dialogues

We have strong financial support for these goals---with 77% of our budget allocated to instruction and direct student support (the highest percentage in CUNY)! Community colleges are revenue driven---relying on enrollment to contribute to our collective financial health as an institution. With everyone's help, we will retain students using STARFISH (our early alert system) key to early assessment of student difficulties and timely intervention to help them succeed!

**New and Continued Initiatives/Activities this year**

- *The Presidential Fellowship Program* for mid-career faculty: in its second year, supports the research and scholarship activities of mid-career faculty who have not had the benefit of new faculty reassigned time or a fellowship leave.
- Continued support for the use of *High Impact Practices* (HIPS)—led by our faculty and supported by Dr. Kathleen Landy and the CETL staff---with two full time positions added specifically to support the expansion our High Impact Practices. This past year, 321 faculty (full time and adjunct) participated in HIPS (from all academic departments) –leading to 164 conference presentations and 79 publications!!! Our thanks to the faculty who will lead all interested colleagues in HIPS pedagogy: Dr. Sharon Ellerton (ASL); Dr. Kathleen Wentrack and Dr. Alicia Circone (Collaborative Assignments/SWIG); Dr. Rob Becker, Dr. Jost Burgers, Dr. Jeff Jankowski (WI); Dr. Meg Tarafdar (GDL) and Dr. Sharon Lall-Ramnarine (UR).
- Strengthening our *Academies*-- a concept incorporating intentional/intrusive advisement, High Impact Practices led by faculty, and the use of Technology (Starfish). Faculty are key contributors: faculty engagement in HIPS and participation in Starfish (our early academic alert program) all support positive results in student academic success.
- *The STEM Scholarship program* will continue this winter session, as will the Milestone Scholarship (winter and summer scholarships) for students who are within one or two courses of completing one half of their degree requirements in one year ! Please encourage eligible students to apply.
- A variety of resources are available to meet students' academic and/or financial needs . Our tutoring services are free to all students, and the staff of the Campus Learning Center, the Writing Center, The Math Learning Center and the Academic Literacy Learning Center partner with faculty to support student success. Faculty can support student retention and success through participation in Starfish, our early alert program through which instructors can identify students in academic difficulty so instructional support staff can contact them individually and connect them with appropriate support services.
- 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 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. Please refer students with short-term financial emergencies to the Office of Financial Aid Services 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 avail themselves of the valuable and free resources through the *QCC Single Stop Program*, located in the Library Building, Room 432A. 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).

As our new academic year begins, as president I renew my commitment to support a strong and engaged faculty, a student-centered learning environment, and community partnerships for education and cultural enrichment in service to our Queens and NYC community residents.

All the best for a productive semester and year.