



Report of the President  
to the  
Academic Senate

December 10, 2013

### **Enrollment Update**

- Enrollment activities for Winter and Spring 2014 are well underway. Winter registration is up almost 20% over last year and based on the preliminary phases for Spring 2014, we expect a healthy enrollment to meet our target for the spring as well.

In addition to the phases, Direct Admission opened on November 4th and the Office is beginning to see an increase in foot traffic. On November 9th, the College hosted a most successful Open House with a record-breaking attendance of 949 visitors (389 students and 560 guests). Congratulations to Laura Bruno and her Admissions team.

### **Faculty and Staff: Awards and Honors**

- A number of our faculty will be honored at CUNY's Annual Salute to Scholars Reception on December 11, celebrating recipients of major awards and fellowships from July 2012 through August 2013. Congratulations to Dr. Megan Elias (History), Dr. Sharon Ellerton (Biology), Dr. Nidhi Gadura (Biology), Dr. Urszula Golebiewska (Biology), Dr. Tirandai Hemraj-Benny (Chemistry), Dr. Susan McLaughlin (Biology), Dr. Andrea Salis (HPED) and Professor Aaron Slodounik (Art & Design).
- On January 28, 2014, the world commemorates International Holocaust Memorial Day. This coincides with the liberation of Auschwitz by the Russian armies as they moved across Poland towards the invasion of Germany. Major ceremonies are held throughout the world to observe this day. In New York City, the main ceremony takes place at the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan. QCC is honored that the current exhibit in our Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center, *Their Brothers' Keepers: American Liberators of the Nazi Death Camps* has been chosen to be included in the ceremonial activities, hosted by the Secretary General of the United Nations. This exhibit (currently on display in our Center) was developed at the invitation of the UN by our KHRCA in partnership with the March of the Living. Congratulations to Dr. Arthur Flug and Rabbi Isadoro Aizenberg, Scholar-in-Residence at the KHRCA.

## Grant Opportunities

***Please contact the QCC Office of Sponsored Programs for additional information and assistance.***

- Applications for the *PSC-CUNY Research Awards Program* are due on December 15. The program supports activities in the creative arts and all academically relevant research in the areas of natural science, social science, and the humanities. All full-time members of the instructional staff are eligible to apply.
- *The Junior Faculty Research Awards in Science and Engineering (JFRASE)* aims to cultivate the excellence and ensure the promise of research-intensive, early career, science and engineering faculty at CUNY. The program has a submission deadline of January 6 and will fund five (5) one-year awards of \$50,000 each.
- Several national organizations offer grant support for faculty research: Applications for *The National Endowment for the Humanities' Collaborative Research Grants* are due 1/07/14; *The National Science Foundation grant applications for Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE)* are due 2/04/14; *The American Political Science Association's Small Research Grant Program* has a deadline of 2/07/14; *The American Historical Association* offers Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grants to support research in European, African, or Asian History, with 2/15/14 deadline for applications.

## Students: Awards and Honors and Opportunities

- Congratulations to QCC students who were invited to participate in the *Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)* held November 12-16 in Nashville, Tennessee. Ms. Viviana Torres won the Biochemistry Award for her research on "Towards the Synthesis of a Potent, Selective, and Covalent Inhibitor of Cysteine Cathepsin L", mentored by Sanjai Kumar, Ph.D., Queens College. Also selected as presenters at this prestigious national meeting were Ms. Jessica Montes and Ms. Lucia Nunez for their work: "Amyloid Beta (25-35) as a Rat Model of Alzheimer's disease on Measures of Sustained Attention", mentored by Francisco Villegas, Ph.D., York College. While at QCC, these students began their research and were mentored by Dr. Pat Schneider (Biological Sciences) through the *QCC-NIH Bridges to Baccalaureate Program*. Since 2004, sixteen Bridges students have received ABRCMS research awards.
- For the sixth consecutive year, Grainger has recognized our outstanding scholars in technology. Engineering Technology students Michael Lawrence and Bryon Singh each received a \$2,000 Grainger Tools for Tomorrow Scholarship award. Queensborough is one of the few community colleges where more than one student is selected as Grainger scholarship recipients.

- To encourage timely degree completion, QCC students who enrolled last spring and are within 3-4 credits of earning one half of their degree by the end of this term will be offered a Winter 2014 scholarship for a QCC credit course taken during our January intersession. The scholarships are intended to support a student's reaching the "thirty- credit milestone" of his/her Queensborough degree in one calendar year. Eligible students\* have been contacted by Professor Glenn Burdi in our Office of Academic Affairs. The scholarship is not based on financial need. \*To be eligible for the scholarship a student must have earned 27 credits toward his/her degree with a minimum GPA of 2.75, and have completed all remedial course requirements.
- Faculty and staff are asked to encourage our students to apply for the QCC Spring 2014 Continuing Student Academic Merit Scholarship. The deadline for all eligible students to apply is Friday, December 13th. If there any questions regarding this scholarship, please contact the Office of Student Affairs.
- Phi Theta Kappa: Matriculated students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and 15 credits accumulated are still eligible to join the Lambda Sigma Chapter of the Phi theta Kappa International Honor Society. Applications can be downloaded from the College's website at [www.qcc.cuny.edu/ptk](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/ptk) or picked up in the Library Building, Room 412. The deadline for students to join for the Fall 2013 semester is Monday, December 23rd.

### **FY 15 Strategic Plan**

- Dean Artie Corradetti continues work with the College Advisory Planning Committee to develop our specific objectives and measurable outcomes for our FY 15 Strategic Plan. The foci of our efforts for the upcoming academic year will be Faculty, Staff and Student Development; Curriculum; The Academies; College Readiness; Technology; and Facilities. Our decisions about the objectives and activities to achieve them will inform our resource allocation process. As is our practice, focus groups and open hearings will be held this spring to give final shape to the Strategic Plan.

### **Early College Initiative**

- On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, twenty-three faculty, staff and administrators from QCC (15), DOE (2), CUNY/ECI(1), and SAP (5) attended the kick-off meeting of the Early College Initiative to understand the projected model for the (B-Tech) Business Technology Early College High School. The following topics were discussed: the roles and responsibilities of each participant and committee; technology industry projected human resource needs; school design elements including culture and curriculum; and recruitment and marketing. A draft project plan was distributed. Next steps: Steering Committee will meet monthly and the two first planning committees - Marketing/Recruitment and Curriculum - will begin work this month. Faculty will meet with SAP to understand projected industry skill needs and

system technologies. The kick-off meeting followed a series of individual meetings that the high school Principal, Hoa Tu, had with department Chairs from ET, Business, and Math and with the deputy Chair from English to hear their concerns and gain insight. The Principal will continue meeting with the balance of the QCC department Chairs over the course of the next two months.

### Upcoming Events

- The President's annual *Holiday Luncheon* for faculty and staff will take place on Thursday, December 19, in the SUL. Two seatings are available to accommodate college employees at either 12 noon or 1:00 pm.
- The *Nursing Candle Lighting Ceremony* for the graduating class of January 2014 will be held in the Theatre on Wednesday, January 8, at 1:00 p.m.
- The annual *Convocation of the College* will be held on Friday, January 24, 2014 in M-136 from 9 am to 12 noon, with a continental breakfast at 8:30 am. Sponsored by our Office of Academic Affairs, this event for faculty and HEOs launches our spring semester, and this year will feature an introduction of our new Provost and Senior Vice President, Michael B. Reiner. Also highlighted will be the work of our faculty on the High Impact Practices.
- On Thursday, January 30, 2014 the QCC Art Gallery will present two opening exhibits beginning at 5:00 p.m. The first, *Powerful Arts of Cameroon*—the Amadou Njoya Collection, is composed of over 100 objects representing the spiritual significance of Njoya's collection and displaying the diversity, strength and beauty of the Cameroonian culture. The second exhibit, *A Pioneer Malian Painter*, features seventeen of artist Victor Forestier Sow's paintings, representing his most active years in the 1960s and 1970s which were exciting cultural, social and political times in the West African Republic of Mali.