



## President's Report to the Academic Senate

November 10, 2015

### ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Direct Admission of new students for Spring 2016 will begin on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition, our Admissions Office continues to receive phases of admitted students from the University. As part of our ongoing focus to expand recruitment of students from Nassau County, we have assigned a dedicated recruiter to deepen the connections between potential feeder schools and the College.

Academic Advisement and Registration: Continuing Student Academic Advisement for Winter/Spring 2016 is well underway. Registration is also underway for students with a 2.0 GPA and over. On Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, students with a GPA less than 2.0 will be able to register for classes, provided they have met with their respective academic advisor.

The annual QCC Open House for prospective students and their families will be held on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Coordinated by our Admissions Office, this event invites prospective students, their families and guests to visit our campus, tour our facilities and attend presentations on the Academies, workshops on *How to Pay for College* and more.

### Faculty Honors and Achievements

The Chancellor's Fall Reception to honor 2014-15 CUNY Award and Grant Recipients will take place December 8, 2015 at the Cooper Hewitt Museum. The nominees from Queensborough include Dr. Azita Mayeli "International Conference on Harmonic Analysis and Applications" (NSF); Dr. Monica Trujillo "Pathways to Geoscience" (NSF), Dr. Marie Chantale Damas "S.O.L.A.R." (NASA) and Dr. Simran Kaur "Core Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program" (US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs)

Several colleagues have been accepted to present at the Association of American Colleges and Universities' (AAC&U) 2016 Annual Meeting, "How Higher Education Can Lead—On Equity, Inclusive Excellence, and Democratic Renewal," January 20-23, 2016, in Washington, DC. Amy Traver (Social Sciences), Elizabeth DiGiorgio (Art & Design), Andrea Salis (OAA/HPED), Arthur Corradetti (SPAIE), Laura Bruno (Admission and Recruitment), Brian Kerr (Student Affairs) and Frantz Alcindor (Academy Advisement) will present on the Queensborough Academies including high impact practices. More than 360 proposals were received, and fewer than 25% were accepted. The proposals selected for this conference represent the work of faculty members, administrators, and higher education

leaders at colleges, community colleges, universities, and educational organizations across the country.

### **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

PSC CUNY Research Award Cycle 47 Workshops took place on October 14, 2015. Richard Markgraf, Program Administrator for the PSC-CUNY awards from the Research Foundation, conducted this workshop, which was attended by 28 faculty members. A follow-up survey was conducted to obtain faculty feedback.

Meetings are being conducted with the Department Chairs to obtain input as to grants practices and procedures, particularly in the area of writing and submission timetables, on-going supervision, and compliance with funding source's regulations.

In FY 2016, the NSF will issue multi-directorate solicitations to support integrated research under the theme of Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS.) The total amount allocated is \$74 million. In conjunction with that, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and National Science Foundation (NSF) have partnered to offer the Community College Innovation Challenge. This will encourage teams composed of community college students, a faculty mentor, and a community or industry partner to compete to propose innovative STEM-based solutions for real-world problems they identify within the INFEWS theme. Final teams will be invited to attend a four-day Innovation Boot Camp. The application period is October 15, 2015 – February 15, 2016. For assistance, please contact Terence Diamond at the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs at [mdiamond@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:mdiamond@qcc.cuny.edu) or stop by Humanities – 336.

### **New RFPs**

Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS) \$74,960,000  
In FY 2016, NSF will issue a multi-directorate INFEWS solicitation to support integrated research towards creating a comprehensive food-energy-water socio-technical systems model; to advance knowledge/technologies that foster more efficient, safe, and secure use of resources within the food-energy-water nexus; and to support an integrated approach to build the next-generation INFEWS workforce. Deadline: TBD

Community College Innovation Challenge American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and National Science Foundation (NSF) partnership.

Teams of community college students, a faculty mentor, and a community or industry partner to compete to propose innovative STEM-based solutions for real-world problems they identify within the theme: Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems. Final teams will be invited to attend a four-day Innovation Boot Camp in Arlington, VA - a professional development workshop on innovation, communication and entrepreneurship. Application period: October 15, 2015 – February 15, 2016

### **STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES**

The New York City Mayor's Office continues funding of the STEM Support Expansion Program. A major component of this initiative provides tuition waivers to students taking

STEM courses. The goal of these STEM Waivers is to promote credit accumulation in STEM courses while not jeopardizing TAP eligibility. QCC students in good academic standing, who are legal residents of New York City, and enrolled in a credit program, can receive a tuition waiver for one STEM course (including lab) during the winter 2016 intersession. Upon completion of the course, the tuition waiver will be applied.

To encourage timely degree completion, QCC students who began their degree program Spring 2015 and have completed between 26 and 29 credits towards their degree as of the end of this fall term are eligible to receive a 2016 Winter scholarship to take a credit course in their degree program at QCC during the January 2016 intersession. The scholarships are intended to support a student reaching the “thirty- credit milestone” of his/her Queensborough degree within one calendar year. All eligible candidates must submit a completed application to the Office of Academic Affairs by December 4.

## **BTECH UPDATE**

The BTECH fall semester is well underway. The 2015 freshman class includes 110 ninth grade students, 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. Most of the 10th grade students are enrolled in high school English Language Arts, Geometry, Biology, Global History, Art and an Introduction to Business Technology 1: Entrepreneurship (a Microsoft Office Software Certification program). In addition, for those students working at or below grade level in ELA and Mathematics, Academic Learning Labs are provided daily. Last month, meetings were held between high school teachers and college professors, including Dr. Sasan Karimi, QCC Chemistry Department Chairperson, to clearly define the *Indicators of Student Readiness* needed to be practiced by high school students for one year prior to each college course being offered in the fall of 2016. The next Curriculum Planning Committee (CPC) meeting will be held at QCC on November 18th at 2:30pm. As part of the BTECH recruitment process, QCC faculty Dr. Wendy Ford (Business) and Professor Robert Kueper (Engineering Technology) volunteered at the fall High School Open Houses to discuss QCC degree programs with both prospective BTECH students and their parents. BTECH mid-term assessments are being measured with parent-teacher conferences in progress. As a lesson in educational accountability, self-advocacy and presentation skills, students are preparing for and leading their own parent-teacher conferences. Professor Andrea Salis and Assistant Dean Laura Bruno have become active co-chairs of the *Transition, Intervention and Enrichment* (TIE) sub-committee planning to develop support programs to assist the high school students transition from high school to college, and later to the workforce. Academic Enrichment programs in the form of Service Learning projects are underway and programs that will support tutoring interventions are being structured. SAP, the corporate partner, presented QCC and BTECH with a Year Two Mentoring program to be inaugurated winter of 2016. In addition, discussions are underway with local SAP clients via the SAP User Group (ASUG) to become active participants on the BTECH Industry Advisory Committee.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING AT QUEENSBOROUGH and at CUNY**

The QCC strategic planning process is underway. Focus groups have been conducted—with faculty governance, academic chairs, HEOs, and students—to encourage sharing ideas about and providing input to the strategic plan for 2016-17, organized around the six college focus goals established last year. The six goals are 1) faculty and staff development, 2) curriculum, 3) Queensborough Academies, 4) college readiness, 5) use of technology, and 6) institution building. The next College Advisory Planning Committee (CAPC) meeting is scheduled for November 18, when a preliminary draft of the strategic plan will be reviewed and discussed. As in the past, open hearings for the campus community will take place in the spring.

In addition to Queensborough's strategic planning process, CUNY is undergoing its own. At this time, the University is soliciting feedback from the entire community to its "strategic planning framework." To access the website where feedback is solicited, visit the college's Strategic Planning webpage (<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/assessment/index.html>), scroll down to "CUNY Strategic Planning Framework," and click on "read more."

## **FACILITIES UPDATE**

As always, there is a lot of activity regarding our facilities. The first phase of the Science Building Courtyard project is estimated to wrap up by late winter. Planning is underway for several projects during the winter break, including renovation of several Chemistry labs funded by State Senator Toby Stavisky. And, plans and approvals are in process for the reconstruction of our athletic track over the winter/spring season, as well as re-paving the main parking lot # 1 next summer.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Queensborough Alumni Association is sponsoring a QCC alumni networking reception on Friday, November 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Oakland Dining Room. Invitations to this 'reunion' event have been sent out to alumni residing in the five boroughs and surrounding areas.

On Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Center, the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives will hold a commemoration of Kristallnacht to honor the memory of the violent anti-Jewish pogroms that took place in 1938 Germany. There will be a panel discussion by survivors of various genocides and historical traumas.

Mr. Edwin Gonzalez, Student Life Specialist in the Office of Military & Veterans' Services, will accompany several of our student veterans at the *Annual Veterans' Day Parade* on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in Manhattan. The parade honors the service of our veterans and salutes those currently on active duty. This year's parade will commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Desert Shield. The United States Navy is this year's featured military branch. The Army, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard are also represented.

The Department of New Student Engagement will host a *Welcome Session* for prospective students and their families on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Oakland. The session is designed: to introduce QCC applicants to the placement test process, to inform those students with placement test result about placement options; to guide students and their families through the class enrollment process; to educate students and their families on college related financial responsibilities; and begin the orientation of new students and their families for a successful transition to college life.

Komediant, a documentary that looks back at the glory days of the Yiddish stage through the lives of a theatrical family will be screened at the KHRCA on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, at 12:10 pm.

Faculty are invited to *A Campus Conversation* sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs will be held on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives (KHRCA). The topic to be discussed is "*Open Educational Resources: Making a Difference through Collaboration and Open Access*". The event will be facilitated by our Library Professors Sheila Beck, William Blick and Connie Williams, with guest speaker Megan Wacha of the CUNY Office of Library Services.

The series of events under the KHRCA/ NEH Colloquia continues with a lecture, *Multiple Girlhoods: Growing up in Bosnia Before and During the Civil War*, on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:10 p.m. in Medical Arts Building, Room 136. Ms. Jasmina Dervisevic-Cesic, an author and Bosnian genocide survivor and Dr. Amy Traver will discuss the catastrophic effects of war on young girls' lives.

On Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:10 p.m. in the Center, the KHRCA will present special guest speakers to address Gendered Experiences in, and Memories of, the Nazi Holocaust. The panel includes Dr. Azadeh Aalai (QCC Department of Social Sciences), Dr. Rochelle Saidel (Remember the Women Institute) and Dr. Marianne Hirsch of Columbia University. This event is also a part of the KHRCA/NEH Colloquia.

Queensborough students who have successfully completed their KHRCA internship on Social Justice will deliver their presentations on Thursday, December 3 at 4:00 p.m. in the KHRCA.

The KHRCA will present a lecture entitled, *Understanding the International Tracing Service* on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 1 p.m. in the Center. Dr. Diane Afoumado, Chief of the International Tracing Service Research Branch at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) will provide a background on what can be found within this archive and how it can be used for research. The archive was established by the Allied powers after World War II to help reunite families separated during the war and to trace missing family members.

The QPAC season continues with two upcoming musical events: *The Doo Wop Project* on Sunday November 15 at 3 p.m. features singers and songs of the great vocal groups of the 1950s. On Sunday, November 22, at 3:00 p.m., Gilbert and Sullivan chart a new course of

modern musical theatre in HMS Pinafore. For Ticket information, call the Box Office at 718.631.6311.