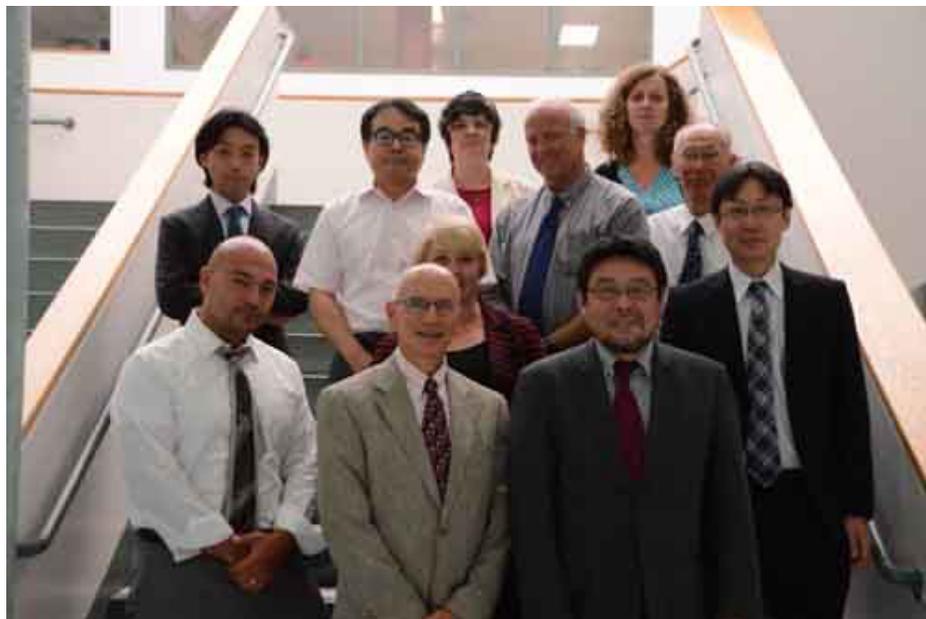


Japanese Educators Visit LaGuardia Community College to Learn about ePortfolios

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Long Island City, NY— Oct. 7, 2014 – A group of LaGuardia Community College administrators, staff and students recently hosted a delegation of Japanese educators on for a day-long discussion of LaGuardia’s ePortfolio and Outcomes Assessment programs.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Bret Eynon, founding Director of the Making Connections National Resource Center, joined a host of LaGuardia officials including Provost Paul Arcario, Professor Tomonori Nagano, Faculty Outcomes Assessment Director Debra Engel, Director of ePortfolio Dr. Mercedes Del Rosario, Bernard Polnariiev, Administrative Executive Officer for Academic Affairs, Assistant Dean Howard Wach, and Laura Gambino, Acting Dean for Assessment and Technology at Guttman Community College in briefing the Japanese delegation on how student ePortfolios have been integrated into the LaGuardia system.

The discussion was titled “Student Success through a redesigned First Year Experience and an award winning Outcomes Assessment model grounded in ePortfolio.” LaGuardia’s ePortfolio system is used to collect student work for learning outcomes assessments.

The Japanese delegates included Kansai University of International Studies President Atsushi Hamana, Kanai University Human Sciences Professor Kiyoshi Fujiki, Kansai University Professor of Organization of Common Education Takanori Kitaoka, and Tatsuo Kawashima, Professor of Higher Education in the Strategic Planning Office at Osaka University.

The delegates received a crash course in ePortfolio creation and use from Del Rosario and a host of LaGuardia officials, including Student Success Mentors Genesis Baque and Kaltrina Lajqi, who each showed the delegates their personal ePortfolio pages and fielded a series of

questions from the visitors.

Dr. Hamana said Japan tried to institute an ePortfolio–like system several years ago without success. Under LaGuardia’s system, student assignments are collected in ePortfolios, where faculty can assess them to determine which teaching strategies work best.

Polnariiev said to date more than 40,000 student data points gleaned from ePortfolios have been studied, powerfully demonstrating how students learn in all core competencies from freshman to graduation.

Professor Nagano said LaGuardia has a long history of collaboration with Japanese delegations. In May the Japan’s Consul General, Ambassador Sumio Kusaka, presented a commendation to LaGuardia Community College for establishing strong ties with his country and for building a rich Japanese studies program in the school.

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LaGuardia Community College located in Long Island City, Queens, was founded in 1971 as a bold experiment in opening the doors of higher education to all, and we proudly carry forward that legacy today. LaGuardia educates students through over 50 degree, certificate and continuing education programs, providing an inspiring place for students to achieve their dreams. Upon graduation, LaGuardia students’ lives are transformed as family income increases 17%, and students transfer to four-year colleges at three times the national average. Part of the City University of New York (CUNY), LaGuardia is a nationally recognized leader among community colleges for boundary-breaking success educating underserved students. At LaGuardia we imagine new ideas, create new curriculum and pioneer programs to make our community and our country stronger. Visit www.laguardia.edu to learn more.

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