

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President

to the
Academic Senate

September 13, 2011

Welcome to the new academic year.

Looking back, 2010-11 was quite a year for us. We experienced many challenges and accomplishments. And we discovered – or were reminded of - just how many extraordinary colleagues we have : our chairpersons, faculty leaders, and especially the administrative staff who never gave up in the face of the adventures we encountered with CUNYfirst and the budget worries. The spirit of collaboration among faculty, students and administration to develop and implement our strategic plan, and to work so very hard to rebuild our enrollment to fall 2010 levels, are what make Queensborough such a special and successful college. Many colleagues are deserving of thanks for ensuring our survival in the new environment of CUNYfirst and enrollment management. As our budget is dependent upon enrollment, we are very pleased to have registered over 15,000 students this semester, including almost 4000 freshmen. This accomplishment enabled us to replace all the faculty and CLTs who took advantage of the early retirement incentive. We now have over 350 full time faculty/CLTs and over 650 adjunct faculty colleagues. Together with academic and student support services, they have created an environment to actively engage students in the learning process.

Welcome to our newest faculty colleagues: Twenty seven full time faculty were hired spring 2011/fall 2011. Welcome also to colleagues recently arrived: Elizabeth Lackner, our Director of Institutional Research, Mavis Hall, our Affirmative Action and Compliance Officer, and Dr.Ian Beckford, Academic Assessment Manager for Learning Outcomes.

Looking back on this year –

Despite all the obstacles and uncertainties of the last year, we met our strategic objectives established by the College Advisory Planning Committee, and have been noted by the University as being in the top tier (there are five quintiles) among all the CUNY colleges. In my meeting with Chancellor Goldstein on August 17, he congratulated QCC and noted our collective efforts to maintain the excellence of our academic programs, the strength of our faculty and their research and scholarship, improved student learning outcomes in many areas (thanks to faculty work on assessment and our general education core), our student and academic support services that have contributed to student retention, the fundraising and enterprise activities which have supplemented our budget, and our sound fiscals policies which have mitigated cuts in NYS and NYC legislative support. *The Chancellor has asked for our*

continued work on remediation and, related to that, our efforts to increase timely degree completion. At the same time, I congratulate our colleagues in the Math Department who have developed and scaled up innovations in remedial mathematics instruction and who continue to engage in pedagogical research on effective instructional approaches for student success. I look forward to and offer support to the Basic Educational Skills Department as its faculty lead change based on data to design and implement significant restructuring and integration of their reading and writing curricula.

Looking ahead to this year -

We are very proud to announce that Queensborough is one of six community colleges throughout the country to receive a \$500,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant! We have been recognized for our unique potential to serve as a national model of excellence for faculty-led efforts to integrate a community college's cultural offerings and its humanities programs. Simultaneously, this award allows us to expand our commitment to the survivors of the Holocaust so that they will not be forgotten. The Challenge grant provides us with an opportunity to gain matching funds for contributions to the Kupferberg Holocaust Center's program endowment. Special thanks to the faculty leaders of this effort: Dr. Sarah Danielson, Dr. Susan Jacobowitz, and especially, to Dr. Emily Tai. In a related effort, the Academic Senate Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources, chaired by Dr. Isabella Lizzul, worked with administrative staff to encourage "cultural connections" with our Art Gallery, the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center, and QPAC (our Performing Arts Center). You are invited to visit the QCC websites for each of them, which include videos describing ways our faculty have constructed lessons using these wonderful resources.

Edge for Success, our fundraising campaign to raise \$25 million by 2015 has been moved to the "public" phase. The "silent" part of our campaign has already raised \$21.5 million so we have \$3.5 million to go. Donor contributions support student scholarships, faculty research in pedagogy, professional development activities, the KHRCA, Art Gallery and QPAC.

This past year, QCC was a recipient of a \$280,000 grant from IBM to design and pilot an early alert/intervention program for students in STEM. As results demonstrated an impact on student performance, we are expanding the project to students in all majors enrolled in gateway courses such as En 101, Math 120 and developmental courses in reading and writing.

Study continues on the impact of our Freshman Academies initiative, and several promising outcomes and the strategies associated with increased student success have been identified. Many thanks to the freshmen coordinators, as well as the faculty coordinators, staff of the Freshman Academies, as well as faculty leaders of our high impact activities: Service learning, Writing Intensive; e Portfolio, Learning Communities, and Cornerstone courses. This past year, our faculty led initiative for e Learning engaged 38 full time and adjunct faculty in the development and implementation of 27 hybrid courses this semester, and another 38 to be offered this coming spring. We look forward to expanded faculty participation in each of these initiatives.

We are very pleased to share news of several dual joint degree programs with our senior college partners, including: a joint degree in *Nursing* with Hunter College, approved at CUNY's June 2011 Board Meeting, and a joint degree in *Career and Technical Teacher Education* with New York City Technical College, expected to be approved at the September CUNY Board meeting. *Science for Pharmaceuticals* with York College is under final review at the University, and *Forensic Financial Analysis* with John Jay College is awaiting that college's governance action, expected this semester.

This year there will be a faculty led effort to review our general education objectives in the context of the University's Pathways Project. Although Queensborough is not represented on the University Committee, several faculty colleagues have been selected to serve on the University's working committee, and we thank Dr. David Lieberman, Dr. Pat Schneider and Professor Marge Reilly for their willingness to be our voice in this effort. The special committee of the Academic Senate on General Education, chaired by Dr. Bertorelli, will lead campus discussions and activities related to this important topic.

Also this year, the process to select recipients of our Faculty Excellence Awards for Scholarship will be conducted. Colleagues from the College Personnel and Budget Committee will coordinate the outreach for nominees, and will recommend faculty candidates for this prestigious honor. Previous awardees are celebrated in the photo gallery in the vestibule of the Medical Arts Building

The College has received a request from the University for input from our campus as CUNY OAA finalizes the CUNY 2012-16 Master Plan. The document related to this effort was emailed to our faculty and staff. All members of our campus community are encouraged to review the framework of topics and questions posed in the document and to offer comments/suggestions (to Dr. Artie Corradetti) for the College's official response. There will be several opportunities for discussion of/comments on the Master Plan and the College's response to the questions posed. In addition to the Office of Academic Affairs' meeting on October 4 with Academic Department Chairpersons, and the CAPC meeting on October 18, *the Office of Academic Affairs will host a 'Campus Conversation' for faculty and HEOs on the CUNY Master Plan on Thursday, September 22 at 3:00 PM in the Oakland Dining Room.* I have asked our governance leaders to encourage constituent participation in these discussions/dialogues and ask for comments to be sent to Dr. Artie Corradetti. A formal response (of approximately five pages) from the College will be submitted to the University by late October.

The new design of our website was launched in late August. There will be a collaborative effort to maximize the effectiveness (and accuracy) of information for faculty, staff, students and visitors to the site. The ACC will provide training for coordinators of department content and news.

The 10th anniversary of 9/11 has been a season for reflection. A virtual website has been established for our community to express thoughts, remembrances or tributes at <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/wtc/index.html> Also, as part of a federal challenge,

Queensborough has committed to mobilize 2,011 volunteers to perform service in the remembrance of 9/11. This effort is to commemorate the contributions of first responders, and the many who performed countless acts of service on the days following 9/11. By commemorating these acts of service, this challenge hopes to encourage community service on campus and in our local communities. If Queensborough wins this challenge, we will receive funding to support 9/11 activities in 2012, 2013, and 2014. In addition, the funding would enable Queensborough to take a leadership role in promoting service and service learning with its sister CUNY colleges. You may document your service at www.facebook.com/Queensborough2011. For further information, contact the Office of Student Learning at ServiceLearning@qcc.cuny.edu

This fall, our Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) has created/issued a new card for QCC students who have properly registered with that office and been approved for appropriate reasonable accommodations and/or academic adjustments as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Until now, Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) has required students to present "Accommodation" letters to their professors every semester in order to confirm approval of testing and/or classroom accommodations. In most cases this new Accommodations Card will replace these letters and a student can produce the card when accommodations are needed in a particular class. Please note some accommodations will still need an accompanying letter, and/or email, to explain certain situations. The Accommodations card will be printed with the students CUNY ID number as an identifier (verifiable by class roster) and contain their personalized testing and/or classroom accommodations as approved by SSD. If a student is entitled to classroom accommodations under the ADA, he/she must show you their card at the beginning of the semester to make you aware of his/her needs. Students have been advised to show instructors their "Accommodations" card as a reminder of their testing accommodations in advance of an exam. Please note: Instructors are asked to complete and sign the "yellow" SSD Testing Accommodation Form when scheduling exams to be proctored by SSD.