

Queensborough Community College  
of The City University of New York

*Report of the President*  
to the Academic Senate

**May 13, 2008**

It is hard to believe that another academic year is coming to an end! Tomorrow is the last day of classes and finals begin on the 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have not made arrangements to attend graduation, please contact Millie immediately. It is too late to order your gown, but we may be able to accommodate some of you. Commencement is such an important day in the lives of our students that all of us, faculty and Higher Education Officers, must make an effort to attend this important event.

At the April 28, 2008 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Queensborough's program on Museum and Curatorial Studies was approved.

At the same Board meeting, it was announced that three Queensborough Community College students won awards at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students for their research poster presentations. Other honors include our Chemistry department who, under Dr. Paris Svoronos' chairmanship, won the Stanley Israel Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences. In addition, Queensborough students attended the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide CSTEP Student Conference in Bolton Landing, New York, presenting research and winning awards. Last month, we witnessed our students making presentations at the Honors Conference. This month we will have the MARM Conference at our College. There is no doubt that we are distinguishing ourselves as a community college that is serious about providing a very high level of educational services. Perhaps this is the month of the sciences, but we distinguish ourselves in Business (the Mock Trials and the Federal Reserve Challenge) in the Humanities (the Poetry Slam) and in many other educational endeavors. Queensborough Community College is truly a remarkable institution.

**Learning Academies:** The final preparations are on the way. As I have said repeatedly to this community, speak now if you have anything to contribute to the formulation of the Learning Academies. As of May 31, we are beginning our plans to implement a Visual and Performing Arts and an Education Academy. We will hire personnel during the summer and begin recruiting students into the academies.

**Orientation:** This summer we will start an extended orientation for the new students. The orientations will be at least two days, on August 25 and 26. The students will be directed to attend individualized orientations according to the Learning Academies.

**Space:** The budget is going to be tight. Thanks to those of you who have helped with the education of our representatives in the City Council to ensure that community colleges are held harmless in these difficult economic times. An existing source of new revenue is new students. However, we need more space to accommodate the additional students. Vice President Call is working very diligently to carve out as much classroom space as it is possible from the existing facilities. In addition, this summer we will see the arrival of four new modular classrooms that will hold 36 students each. These modular classrooms, along with some space modifications on campus, will provide us with the space necessary to accommodate the influx of first time students.

Please note that although we try very hard to associate specific spaces with departments and programs, all classroom space must be considered for use as general purpose classrooms. We no longer have the luxury of dedicated classrooms, and may find it necessary to reallocate certain areas. I know that you will work with Vice President Call as she follows my directive to find additional classroom space.

**Partner’s Gala:** Clearly, this was the best one ever, with approximately 540 people in attendance!! In addition to the funds received (over \$325,000), the warmth and honest appreciation for the work that you do was evident more than ever. Again, this is an extraordinary college.

**Walk to Aspire:** Unfortunately, we did not get enough teams to participate. It is important that this grass-roots fundraiser is held and that our students participate in the event. I am asking Vice President Hartigan to work with the Student Government and Phi Theta Kappa to ensure that students are engaged in this event.

**Budget:** Nothing has really changed as of this writing. We are awaiting the Executive Budget Request and by this meeting, I will have more information. No matter what comes, we are a solid and healthy institution and the core offerings, including the Learning Academies, will be held out of the budgetary harms way.

Let me take this opportunity to formally wish you a happy and productive summer. It is during this time that ideas for scholarship germinate, new lesson plans are developed, textbooks are written and others are selected.

Again, I want reiterate what I have said so many times in the past. I am humbled and proud to have served as your president this year.

Eduardo J. Marti

Proposed CUNY Master Plan: President Marti’s response –  
<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/president/ResponseToCMP.asp>