



# QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Continuing Education & Workforce Development

Newsletter | Fall 2019

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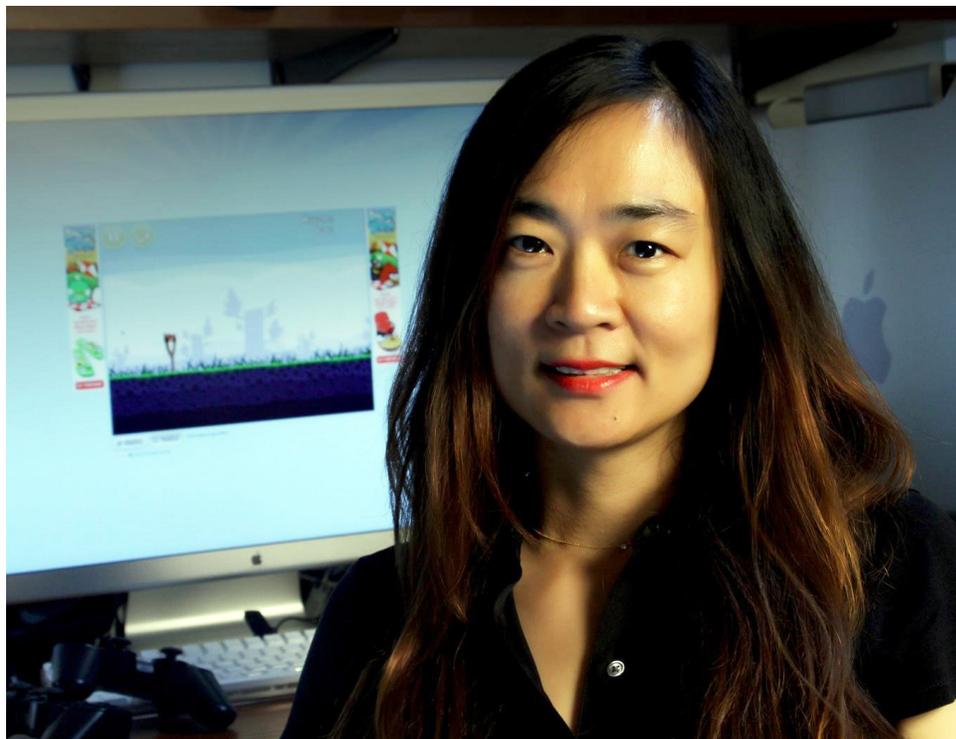
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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW DEAN, DR. HUI-YIN HSU!

Hui-Yin Hsu (Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh) was named Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Queensborough Community College on July 1, 2019. She was previously associate dean and full professor of New York Institute of Technology's Education Division. She has launched highly successful online programs and led the NYIT's education programs to full-recognition for CAEP national accreditation (2019-2026). She was the PI for National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Grant (NSF, \$1.2 Million, 1852791, 2019-2024) and Co-PI for National Science Foundation Cyberlearning Grant (NSF, \$1 Million, DRK12-1020091, 2010-2015), Workforce Development Planning, 21st Century Jobs Grant and Voya Foundation Grant, Diversifying STEM Leadership: A hands-on community-based approach. She served as President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Secretary General and Board of Directors of the Chinese American Academic & Professional Society.

Her research concentrates on using technologies to enhance language and literacy learning and new literacies, the idea of using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and mobile devices to consume and produce information for learning. Her recent publications include "Preservice Teachers Uses of SMILE (Stanford Mobile Inquiry-based Learning Environment) to Enact Student-Generated Questioning Practices" in



Dr. Hui-Yin Hsu

*International Journal of Innovation in Education*, "Using Gaming Literacies to Cultivate New Literacies" in *Simulation & Gaming*, "Middle School Science Teachers' Confidence and Pedagogical Practice of New Literacy" in *Journal of Science Education and Technology*, "Impact of Using Blogs on College Students' Reading Comprehension and Learning Motivation" in *Literacy, Research and Instruction*, "Rethinking Language Learning: Using Audioblogs With ELs" in *Literacy Today*, "Impact of Student-Generated Questioning Practices on Science and Literacy Learning" and "Examining the Effects of Playing Video Games on Creative Thinking" in *AACE eLearn Proceedings*,

and *Amazing iPad Book for Teachers*. Her work has also appeared in *Computer Assisted Language Learning, Educational Technology Research and Development*, and *Tech Trend*. She is actively involved in global and local communities.

She recently received Best Paper Award from the Association of Filipino Teachers in Eastern America International Research and Education Conference and Outstanding Community Service Award from the New York City Councilman Peter Koo, Education Solutions Stakeholders Partnership Award from UNESCO Center for Global Education, and the Distinguished Service Award from Chinese American Academic & Professional Society. ■

# WELCOME TO FALL 2019 AT QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

As we finish this last semester before the onset of a new decade, we have exciting plans to launch NEW Adult programs in our Professional Development sector, a wonderful community based course within the Preparatory Skills arena to welcome new Americans, and informative Personal Enrichment classes. The Kids & Teens College programs continue to expand toward integrating STEAM and the highly in-demand Coding classes, while offering Parents a unique workshop.

Our Health Care programs will now include:

- Health Care Management: Patient Care Coordinator
- Certified Billing and Coding Specialist (CBCS)
- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)
- Medical Scribe

If you are interested to learn about American Culture, enroll in these unique classes:

- Culture, Conversation & Community
- Celebrating 80th Anniversary of *The Wizard of OZ* and *Gone with the Wind*
- An Introduction to Some of Our "American" Artists: David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein, Richard Serra, Frank Stella, Jasper Johns, and Robert Rauschenberg

Meeting the Past will incorporate series of classes:

- History Series
- Art History Series
- Architecture Series

For Children, Teens, and yes, even Parents, we will offer:

- Let's Make Some Art!
- STE@M: Young Pioneers & Trailblazing Thinkers
- CODING Workshops: Advanced Series
- For PARENTS: Your Teen's Social Media Persona & Their Future ■



The Continuing Education and Workforce Development team

## CLIP CELEBRATES ITS GRADUATES!

By **Dr. Diana Berkowitz**, Senior Director for Academic Affairs, CLIP, CUNY Start, ESL and HSE

Hui Hui Li and Ummay Chowdhury had their poetry accepted for publication in *The Literacy Review* 17 in 2019, a journal for adult ESL writers. Their published written work is especially impressive being that they are such recent immigrants to the US having come here from China in 2016 and from Bangladesh in 2017, respectively. In addition, Leidy Bravo had her essay published in the same journal about a dream she had which changed her life. Of special note is that Leidy Bravo, who had experienced an interrupted education in her home country, Ecuador never wrote an essay, not even in Spanish, till she came to CLIP.

The following former CLIP students just graduated from QCC:

Rajvinder Kaur, Nowme Taranum, Djeili Okoro, Nisha Dutt, Nir-mal Gill. Rajvinder and Nowme also worked in our office as Work Study students while pursuing their academic studies. Rajvinder is continuing on to Queens College and Nowme on to Baruch to study Business. Okoro has won many athletic awards in Track and Field while here at QCC, most recently the 2018-19 Queensborough Steve Weingard Scholar-Athlete Award, and he will continue his education at York College in Biotechnology.

Our computer lab tech, Surendra Boodhoo, who also attended QCC, was in this year's graduating class as well. He will be transferring to Queens College to study Computer Science. While at QCC he also served as a lab tech for CUNY Start and for other Continuing Ed programs. ■

# PORT OF ENTRY PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR SUMMER SEMESTER, 2019

## Ms. Yan Xu earns Harry Lum Endowed Scholarship and Florence K. Tse Student Award

The Port of Entry Program was established in 1980 as a unique intensive language development program designed to provide international students and new immigrants with the language skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to succeed in higher education and professional careers in the United States. Ms. Yan Xu studied nursing in Jiangsu, China. She came to join her father in USA one year ago. Shortly after her arrival to New York, she enrolled in the Port of Entry Program to improve her English language skills. In the beginning, Yan Xu struggled with studying, she almost gave up on learning but with the encouragement and guidance from her ESL teachers, she progressed from an intermediate level to the advanced TOEFL class and began preparing to apply to Queensborough Community College for a degree program. While learning, she kept a part-time job. Her outstan-



LEFT: Yan Xu awarded the Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lum POE Endowed Scholarship in Spring Semester, 2019. Pictured with donors Professor Emeritus Jackson Lum (QCC ET) and Mrs. Muriel Lum who set up the scholarship in memory of the late parents of Jackson Lum. RIGHT: Yan Xu was presented the Florence K. Tse POE Student award by Florence Tse, Director of POE. Donor of this award is Professor Emeritus Nathan Chao (QCC ET) and Mrs. Rose Chao.

ding performance, full attendance and accomplishments earned her the Harry Lum Endowed Scholarship last semester and the Florence K. Tse Student Award this Summer. She is

one of the few students awarded dual scholarships. Her goal is to pursue a college degree at QCC and she firmly believes that she will harvest what she has planted for the future. ■

## Thomas Chen Port of Entry Scholarship

Ms. Danni Su worked as a flight attendant in Shanghai, China, before she took on a job of au pair in New York. Her professional goal was to obtain employment with international airlines and travel all over the world. There was only one obstacle - learning English. Her host family recommended the Port of Entry program to her. Because of her working schedule, she could only take the part-time ESL classes on Saturdays. When her work contract was over, she returned to China but did not give up on her dream of becoming a fluent English speaker and traveling the world. With QCC's I-20 form, she obtained a student visa and came back to the Port of Entry Program as a full-time student. She is extremely committed and excels in all of her classes. Her outstanding performance and persistent efforts earned her the Thomas Chen Scholarship. ■



Danni Su awarded the Thomas Chen POE Scholarship. Presenter is donor Thomas Chen's son, Johnson Chen, General Manager of Tempco Glass Fabrication LLC and Gamco Corporation.

# PROJECT PRIZE CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

On May 19 2019, the Liberty Partnerships Program – Project PRIZE celebrated its thirtieth year anniversary commemorated by a luncheon in the Student Union for students, parents, staff and community partners. Project PRIZE began serving middle and high school students at Queensborough in 1989 and since then has successfully provided college and career preparation services to thousands of students in Queens and the neighboring boroughs. Students have gone on to achieve success in various fields such as law, social work and medicine.

Funded by the New York State Education Department, the program continues to implement effective afterschool, summer and Saturday programming, offering support in basic academic skills, STEM, arts, sports, cultural enrichment and college, and career readiness. ■



# THE CAREER DIRECT PROGRAM: CODING CLUB HACKATHON

The Career Direct Program introduced the Coding Club Hackathon in the Spring of 2019 for the first time in order to create a unique opportunity for coders, developers, designers, ideators, and mentors to come together, brainstorm, problem solve, and create innovative solutions to real life challenges. The Goal of the Hackathon was to encourage students to use their creativity, programming languages and collaborate with one another to create a live website that markets their skills.

The scope of the project was to create a website “Helping Students Navigate QCC”.

Students had a total of 10 weeks dedicated to the Hackathon and were required to use time outside of the Coding Club to collaborate and complete their project.

Students were randomly selected into groups of three with a Team Lead in each group.

## Static Start-Up

Team Lead - Jewel Clarke-Henry  
Christian Gomez



From left to right: Team Lead - Sung Ahn, Amalan Tharmarasa, Alex Chen and Sarah Believeau

Changoh Hong

## Hack Solo

Team Lead - Rashad Landrum

## Thrift Torrent Talisman

Team Lead - Sung Ahn  
Amalan Tharmarasa  
Sarah Believeau  
Alex Chen

The First place winners of the Hackathon were Team Thrift Talent Talisman. They each won:

- \$25 Amazon Gift Card

- Article published in the Continuing Education Department Newsletter, Website and Social Media
  - Hackathon Completion Certification
- Our team of judges (David Moretti- Director of Web Services, Ivan Martinez-Programmer/Coder, Peter Varkey- Web Designer, and Deborah Buzuayehu- Junior Web Developer and partners were very impressed with the solutions created, and we can't wait to see the solutions our hackers will create for our future hackathons. ■

# QUEENSBOROUGH BEATS STRONG WITHIN DINAJAH

## A first-generation American's early introduction to college bolstered her love of learning

Dinajah Campbell started her studies at Queensborough Community College when she was 16. She enrolled in a CPR course and attained certification. Five years later, as a graduate and employee of the City University of New York (CUNY), Queensborough still pulses through her veins.

"I loved studying here and I loved the idea of nursing," says Campbell, a participant in P2N (Pathways to Nursing), a 2015 CUNY program that provided personalized advisement, mentoring, tutoring and financial support services that advanced her interest in professional healthcare.

"It was very competitive and exposed me to a lot of new things," recalls Dinajah, who as an undergraduate practically lived at the college's computer labs and library. Today, her enthusiasm for nursing extends to midwifery, postpartum care and hospital administration.

Campbell, from Jamaica, Queens -- her family comes from Jamaica, the Caribbean island -- begins her final year at CUNY's York College this fall. She transferred from Queensborough with her Associate's Degree and will graduate from York with a Bachelor's in Health Science in May 2020.

"Queensborough made that possible, but I'm not done yet," says the first-in-



Gail Patterson and Dinajah Campbell at the College's medical learning labs

her-family college graduate, endowed with a mindset for lifelong learning. A sibling to an 18-year-old brother, and sisters, 16 and 13, Campbell attended Campus Magnet High School in Cambria Heights, where she was introduced to Queensborough counselor Melissa Hubbard and the 21st Century Community Learning program, which featured literacy and math enrichment services. "I struggled with math but Ms. Hubbard recognized that I was motivated," Campbell explains.

A school trip to Queensborough exposed her to the college's virtual hospital facilities and nursing curriculum. "Something just clicked with me that day," she recalls, thankful to Hubbard and other Queensborough staff advisers including Gail Patterson, Sherri-Ann Simmons, and Dorine Touwsma.

Now, employed part-time as a CUNY Explorer guide, Campbell participates in the New York City College Access for All initiative by hosting 7th graders' visits to Queensborough's campus. She has also worked with local high school students as a peer mentor and instructor.

"Some advisers here at Queensborough think I'd make a good teacher," says the former childhood clarinet player and contemporary dancer with Black Spectrum Theatre.

"Art, the stage, public speaking... they enable young people to become comfortable, confident, articulate and strong. Every child should have exposure to that type of creativity and freedom. It really helped me."

Campbell will juggle full-time college, an internship at Jamaica hospital, continue to work at Queensborough and start a weekend catering job this fall: "I will have no social life."

She relishes her independence, however, and welcomes the responsibility and risks that come with taking on so much. "It will be worth it. I have a lot of pride and self-determination," she declares, her heart racing.

Drawing a deep breath she adds, "If I want it all, I have to study hard, save money and stay the course. I want to go places." ■

## TECHWORKS PARTICIPATES IN GOOGLE HACKATHON

Queensborough's CUNY TechWorks software development students had the opportunity to participate in the first-ever CUNY Community College Hackathon at the Grow With Google headquarters this past spring. QCC's coders joined students from across the CUNY network to innovate solutions for issues affecting the campus community. The specific challenge for this hackathon was: "How can the Google AIY Voice Kit help leverage accessi-

bility for CUNY students who have disabilities while in the classroom?" To hack this challenge, teams of students worked with the Google AIY kit, which is a stripped-down version of a Google Home (a smart speaker that understands voice commands, like Amazon's Alexa). Each team consisted of CUNY students with diverse technical backgrounds, including software development, IT and/or user experience design, as well as one industry-expert

mentor to guide them. Teams were able to consult with a number of different experts throughout the hackathon, including Google engineers who were on hand as volunteers.

The first day of the two-day hackathon kicked off with teams hearing from Influencers, who were students navigating the CUNY landscape while also managing a disability. One such Influencer, QCC TechWorks student Ashia Nagi, spoke about her difficul-

ty staying on top of classwork with ADHD, and how it would be helpful if technology could be used to make taking notes in class easier, so that she would not forget important things once she leaves class. As she says, “a lot of people with disabilities like mine will miss information. We get distracted easily and are often unaware when it’s happening.” To address this, the winning team envisioned an app that records each lecture and segments it, so that students can upvote the most important parts of the lecture and downvote the segments that are not as important, as well as add calendar reminders automatically if needed. This allows students like Ashia to easily review lectures after they occur and ensure that they do not miss any critical information.

The big winner of the day was QCC TechWorks student Michelle



Hsieh, who won the Hackathon MVP award for her team-building and cross-functional collaboration skills. Michelle won her own Google Home Mini--and no, she didn’t have to build it herself! According to Michelle, “the best part of the Hackathon was just being there, being focused and learning that you can be strong. And it was huge to have it at Google, because it’s such a big name that means a lot to people.” Sherill Samuel,

QCC’s Tech Success Manager who worked as a team mentor, explains: “There are tons of hackathons out there, but this one was at Google, and being there was a dream for a lot of developers.” Queensborough’s CUNY TechWorks looks forward to partnering with Grow with Google again in August, when students will enjoy another great day at the headquarters for the launch of their online portfolio showcase. ■

## CRPA NEWS: CONGRATULATIONS DR. ANDREA SALIS AND MS. LORI CONKLING!

Congratulations to Andrea Salis, PhD, CHES, and Lori Conkling, MA, for being selected to present at SOPHE (Society for Public Health Education), 21st Annual Advocacy Summit on October 19 – 21, 2019! The 21st Annual Advocacy Summit offers an entire track devoted to teaching advocacy competencies for a common health education agenda at the national, state and local levels. There will be an opportunity to learn about incorporating advocacy in the classroom in this track dedicated to faculty members and future faculty who are interested in the pedagogy of advocacy.

Dr. Salis and Ms. Conkling will be presenting in a Teaching Track: Building Advocacy Champions in the Certified Recovery Peer Advoca-

te Training Program.

Certified Recovery Peer Advocates (CRPA’s) are individuals who have been certified to provide coaching, support, information, guidance and motivation to those seeking or sustaining recovery from a substance use diagnosis, and have their own lived experience. QCC was awarded contracts by NYC Department of Small Business Services, (SBS), New York Alliance for Careers in Healthcare (NYACH), to design, implement and evaluate a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) Training Program for 2 cohorts between 9/1/16 and 6/30/17 and for 2 cohorts between 9/1/17 and 6/30/18, training 80 students over the two-year period, with an over 90% completion rate, and making us the first educational

institution to offer a comprehensive CRPA program to qualified NYC candidates. CRPA training is a non-credit, 46-hour certification workshop and three-credit Addictions and Dependencies course, designed in close collaboration with Dr. Andrea Salis and taught by Professor Ed Diller. Students are introduced to college-level courses and degrees, supporting their long-term learning and career goals. Graduates also have obtained employment with employment organizations, such as the NYC Dept. of Health, Bridge Back to Life, Odyssey House, VIP Services, etc. In 2019, Dr. Andrea Salis & Lori Conkling are collaborating on a journal article for Health Promotion Practice and a webinar for members of the NY State Public Health Association. ■



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