



President's Report to the Academic Senate February 13, 2019

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Enrollment Management Update

The Office of New Student Engagement hosted a successful New Student Orientation on Saturday, January 19th. Incoming students and their families met with administrators, advisors and faculty from various departments. During the group sessions, students participated in activities that facilitated collaborative engagement and social interaction. The Orientation Program also featured a Student Services Expo, which showcased multiple departments, programs and support services on campus. New Student Orientation continued during the first week of classes with “Welcome Week”. Over 1700 students visited three information stations set up in high-traffic areas. Student Ambassadors provided assistance, information and resources to returning as well as incoming students to the College at each station. The Office of Student Affairs is working with the Executive Enrollment Management and Enrollment Operations teams to develop a strategic enrollment management plan. This plan will be vetted by Cabinet and others in the coming month.

Personnel Appointments

- The Division of Student Affairs is proud to announce the appointment of Mr. Michael Verdino as the Director of Academy Advisement. In this role, Mr. Verdino will provide oversight, leadership, coordination, and planning of the Queensborough Academies (Liberal Arts, Health-Related Sciences, Business, STEM, and Visual & Performing Arts) that make up the Office of Academy Advisement. Mr. Verdino joins the college with a wealth of experience in higher education, having most recently served as Associate Director of First Year Experience at Pace University. Prior to that, he served as both Academic Advisor and Instructor of Pace University's CAP (Challenge to Achievement at Pace) Program. He has also served as an Adjunct Instructor at Pace University in the Department of Information Systems, and has spent years in the classroom teaching first year seminar courses to support student success. His educational credentials include a B.A. in Media Studies from Queens College, an M.S. in Higher Education Administration from Baruch College, and a second M.S. degree in Information Systems from Pace University – Seidenberg School of Computer Science.
- Ms. Veronica Lukas has been appointed to the position of Dean of Enrollment Management. In her new role, Ms. Lukas will oversee the following units of the college: Admissions &

Recruitment, New Student Enrollment, Testing, Student Financial Services, Scholarships, Single Stop, and CUNY EDGE. Ms. Lukas will also be involved in student success and enrollment service technology initiatives. Since joining Queensborough in 2004, Ms. Lukas has held several positions including: Executive Director of Student Financial Services, managing the areas of Student Financial Services, Scholarships, Single Stop and CUNY Edge; Director of Student Financial Services, and Director of Enrollment Management and Student Financial Services. She has utilized the holistic approach of enrollment management by following the student life-cycle to create a supportive environment for students. Ms. Lukas is a member of the Strategic Enrollment Management Executive Team, Enrollment Management Operations Team, Starfish Steering Committee, Middle States Student Experience Working Group, and Administrative Liaison to the Academic Senate Awards and Scholarships Committee. She has served on the ASAP Steering Committee and was a functional lead during the QCC vanguard college CUNYfirst implementation. Ms. Lukas has been active on University committees including Enrollment Management, Scholarship Council, and chair and co-chair of the Council of Financial Aid Directors. Prior to Queensborough, Ms. Lukas worked at Polytechnic University for 13 years and served as Assistant Vice President of Student Services, Director of Financial Aid, and Interim Registrar. Ms. Lukas holds a B.A. in Finance and an M.B.A. in Management and Finance, both from Adelphi University.

- Ms. Linda Evangelou has been appointed to the position of Assistant Dean for New Student Enrollment Services. Ms. Evangelou joined Queensborough in July of 2017 as the Director of Admissions & Recruitment. With over 11 years of experience in higher education administration, Ms. Evangelou has been driven by a passion for working with others and a proven track record in developing/managing complex events, projects, and programs. As a member of the student affairs team, Ms. Evangelou brings a wealth of special event and strategic planning experience, strong leadership, staff development skills, and a successful track record of advancing shared organizational goals. She is tasked with the responsibility of leadership/oversight of Admissions & Recruitment, Application Processing, Transfer Services, New Student Enrollment Services, and Testing. These responsibilities are key to realizing our goals as they relate to college access, completion, and academic momentum. Ms. Evangelou earned her B.A. in Psychology from Manhattan College and her M.A. in Mental Health Counseling from the College of New Rochelle.

STUDENT RESOURCES

- Faculty and staff are asked to encourage our students to avail themselves of the valuable and free resources through the ***QCC Single Stop Program***, located in the Library Building, Room 432A. Services provided include (but not limited to) financial benefits screening, financial counseling, legal assistance, tax preparation services, food bank, housing assistance and more. Additional information can be found online at [our QCC Single Stop website](#).
- The Single Stop program in collaboration with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance will provide an ***Assisted Self-Preparation Tax Program*** this tax season. Students and their family members will complete their income tax returns with the assistance from a tax department employee. There will be three sessions held on every Wednesday,

starting on February 6th through April 10th. The sessions are slated for 10am – 12pm, 12pm – 2pm, and 3pm – 5pm and will be held in the Library Building - Room 117.

- Emergency funding is available to students who face a financial crisis that puts at risk their continued enrollment toward their QCC degree. Supported through a grant from ***The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation***, the funds provide one-time, emergency grants to students in good standing with short-term financial emergencies to enable them to remain in school, rather than being forced to leave or drop out. Ms. Veronica Lukas, Executive Director of Student Financial Services, will be sending periodic e-mail reminders to the college community outlining the grant eligibility and encouraging faculty and staff to refer students to apply. Please refer students with short-term financial emergencies to Ms. Amawati Gonesh, Single Stop Administrator, via e-mail at AGonesh@qcc.cuny.edu. Additional information can be found online at our [QCC Scholarship Website](#).
- CUNY continues its partnership with ***The Dream. US Scholarship Program*** to assist undocumented students in obtaining scholarships. The Dream.US Scholarship Program provides college scholarships to highly motivated undocumented students who entered the United States as minors under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protect Status (TPS), and who, without financial assistance, cannot afford a college education. All funding is provided by private donations to The Dream.US organization. Scholarships are available to currently enrolled high school students and community college students who will be completing their degrees by the end of the 2018 - 2019 academic year. The annual application period to award scholarships for the Fall 2019 cohort opened on November 1, 2018 and the deadline is February 28, 2019. Please refer students to apply at [The Dream Website](#).
- The ***New York State Transfer and Articulation Association (NYSTAA) Scholarship*** is available for students who anticipate they will complete their degree by August 2019 and enroll in a select four-year university for Fall 2019. For full details, visit [NYSTAA website](#).
- The ***2019 Abbey Duncan Brownfield Scholarship Program*** is now accepting applications. The program provides financial support to students pursuing careers in the brownfield industry in New York City. Please visit [The NYC Brownfield Partnership website](#) for full program details.
- The ***Freya Moskowitz Stern, Laura Rollins Hockaday, and The Finch College Alumni Scholarships*** are now available for eligible students. The scholarships, worth \$5000, are awarded to second-year female community college students who will graduate from QCC at the conclusion of spring 2019 and transfer to a four-year university for fall 2019. For additional information, visit the [Finch College Scholarship website](#).

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Middle States Self-Study:

- The Middle States Self-Study has been mailed to the visiting team. Open forums will be held in the next few weeks to prepare the campus for the visit taking place on March 24-27.

Academic Momentum Plan:

- **STEM Waiver for the Winter Session 2019**

Over 500 applications were received for the STEM waiver program for the winter 2019 session. 288 STEM courses were taken and students earned 771 STEM credits at a total cost of \$161,900. A total of 96% of the students completed the course, with only 4% of the students withdrawing. Of those who completed their course 50% got an A, 27% got a B, 13% got a C, with the remaining 10% getting grades of D or F or an INC.

Funding will be available for summer 2019, which normally has even higher participation.

- **Milestone Scholarship for the Winter Session 2019**

A total of 183 students were identified as candidates qualifying for the Milestone Scholarship for the winter 2019 session. We awarded 34 scholarships, with 25 students taking advantage.

This represented 79.5 credits for a total cost of \$18,235. 42% of these students got an A, 23% got a B, 23% got a C, with the remaining 12% getting grades of D or F.

We will be offering the Milestone Scholarship for the summer 2019 session.

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and Open Educational Resources (OER) initiatives:

This month, over 40 Queensborough Faculty will be participating in a group reading of *The New Education* by Cathy Davidson of the CUNY Grad Center. Also, please be on the lookout this month for communications regarding the CETL Pedagogical Research Challenge Awards and the June 2019 eLearning Institute. All Faculty are encouraged to visit the CETL and OER homepages to see a complete listing of all upcoming events and professional development opportunities.

OER Initiative

- Faculty participants in this year's CUNY-funded *Open Educational Resources Initiative* have just completed the Blackboard OER course and are in the process of developing zero-cost OERs for implementation in the fall 2019 semester. Notably, recent efforts among all CUNY institutions have involved developing longer-term, sustainable plans involving open platforms.

PRE-COLLEGE, CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

BTECH Update

- Milestones have been reached for our legacy cohort at BTECH. 89% of the cohort graduated from high school far exceeding the average NYC DOE high school graduation rate (76%). Of those 89%, 98.7% are enrolled in college. 50% of the legacy cohort's 5th year students are targeted to graduate with their A.A.S. degree this semester. 86.1% met CUNY Proficiency in the Math Regents and 92.4% met CUNY proficiency in the ELA Regents. 34.2% have a 3.0 – 4.0 GPA. These accomplishments surpass the mean of all the other 9-14 Early College Initiative high schools in CUNY.

Grants Update:

Grants Awarded 11/2/2018 – 2/4/2019

- CUNY Office of Research Community College Research Grant: \$10,000, Sujun Wei, *Tuning Electron Transport in Heterofluorene by Precise Atomic Control*
- CUNY Office of Research Community College Research Grant: \$10,000, Paul Sideris, *Developing a Flexible Laser-Induced Graphene Supercapacitor*
- CUNY Office of Research Community College Research Grant: \$9,975, Rochelle Nelson, *Identification of Escapee Genes in the Development of Stress-induced Cardiomyopathy*
- New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD): \$56,936, Denise Ward, *Career Development Connect Participant Trainings*
- New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE): \$51,437, Jacqueline Montgomery, *Middle School Visits - QCC CUNY Explorers*

FACILITIES UPDATE

During the winter break, a significant redesign of the Student Affairs space on the 4th Floor of the Library Building was completed to bring the Academies together in one place and providing our students with greater ease of access to the Advisors and other services available to them.

- The QPAC Theater ADA capital renovation project in the Humanities Building began in January 2019 and will be completed in phases over the next 19 months. While the primary objective is to provide accessibility to the theater and seating for patrons, the project will also include a new elevator and renovated bathrooms benefiting all the members of our community.
- The architectural and engineering design of Phase II of the Capital Project to enclose the Science Building Atrium and create a new cafeteria kitchen and servery has been completed. The process will now move forward in the procurement cycle with a targeted start date in the next 12 months.
- The Electrical Infrastructure capital project for Queensborough will be completed this Spring! One last round of extended building electrical interruptions will be planned and communicated for the Spring break, at which time the final electrical service will be initiated to all QCC buildings.

Fiscal Year 19 Budget Update

- As reported by the University Budget Office, overall Community College enrollment is down, including Queensborough Community College with a decline of approximately 6% vs. Spring FY18. This will impact projected revenue that supports the College's operating budget, and a review is underway of all FY19 planned Personnel (PS) and Other Than Personal Services (OTPS) expenditures. Preparations for the Resource Allocation Planning cycle for Fiscal Year 2020 will begin earlier than in recent years, and will be driven to provide as much flexibility in planning next year's budget as possible. While this is a serious challenge requiring a disciplined and focused budget review, the

college is prepared to meet its overall budget obligations due to our past prudent management of available resources and reserves.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND LABOR RELATIONS

New Faculty:

As of January 25, 2019, Queensborough has 417 full-time faculty.

Please join me in welcoming our newest faculty members to the Queensborough Community College family:

Dr. Lysa Chizmadia, Dr. Alison Mello, Dr. Sushma Teegala, Mr. Wilfredo Moran, Dr. Zhou Zhou, Professor Guozhen An, Dr. Courtney Konshuh, Professor Chun Chung Tse, Mr. Franklin Mejia and Mr. Adam Odell.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Faculty Workshops:

- Responsible Conduct of Research Workshop: 3/4/19, 3 pm to 4 pm, L313.
- General Information Session on Reappointment and Tenure Processes for Assistant Professors on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 2:00-3:30 pm in A-502D.
- Practice Sessions on presenting before the Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee for Full Professor will be available on Friday, February 22 at 1:00 pm, Tuesday, February 26 at 12:00 pm, and Monday March 4 at 1:00 pm, all practice session will be available in the President's Conference room A-502D.
- Opportunities for service to the College and opportunities and programs at QCC and CUNY for professional development on Wednesday, February 27 at 2:00 pm in the Oakland Dining Room.

Assessment Institute:

- The Assessment Institute provides guidance, resources, and support for the development and implementation of an assessment of student learning outcomes. Faculty participants develop a plan, implement the assessment, and complete a report that includes findings and recommendations.
- The Assessment Institute will be offered again this spring from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. in L-117 on the following four Fridays, February 15, February 22, March 1, and March 8.

2019 Gala Tickets Are Now Available!

The 2019 Partners for Progress Gala will be held on Thursday, April 11th at Terrace on the Park.

Faculty and staff tickets are now available at the \$125 early bird, discounted rate between now and **Thursday, March 7, 2019** - tickets purchased after March 7th, will still be available at \$150, which is 50% off the general price to the public of \$300. No tickets are sold at the door. Tickets may be purchased **online** at our [QCC Gala website](#). **Checks** must be made payable to the **QCC Fund, Inc.** and may be dropped off in the Advancement Office, Room A-508.

2019 PARTNERS OF THE YEAR

We are doing a memorial tribute to Norman L. Hill, Class of 1970 as our Alumni Partner of the Year. Mr. Hill graduated from Queensborough Community College with an associate degree in Liberal Arts and then went on to Queens College to earn his bachelor's degree. Mr. Hill served in the US Navy, taught mathematics at Francis Lewis High School, worked as a signalman with the New York City Transit Authority and then as an electrician with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

Norman passed away on August 19, 2017, at the age of 75. To honor his legacy of helping others, his family has established the *Norman L. Hill Endowment for Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)*.

Other Partners Honorees include Ms. Judy Ng, Director of the Asian Segment, who is responsible for engaging the Asian communities with the Flushing Bank brand; Mr. Salvatore J. DiMarino, First Senior Vice President and Director of Investor Relations and Strategic Planning at New York Community Bancorp, Inc.; and Mr. S.W. Sang, President of the NYC Promotion and Tourism Association, former President of the New York Hong Kong Chinese Merchant Association, and a member of numerous other boards including the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of NYC Inc. and the International Society of Chinese Art Collectors.

FIGHT CAMPUS HUNGER

The grassroots student fundraiser in support of the **QCC Food Pantry** kicked off on **11/27/18 and runs through 3/6/19**. Using the social media platform, GiveGab, student clubs are entered as Fundraising Champions, each with a \$500 minimum fundraising goal. Seventeen student clubs have signed up so far and have collectively raised 16% of their goal with 50 days still left to go. Faculty and staff are encouraged to please participate at our [Giving Tuesday's website](#).

Art Gallery:

- Please join us for the opening reception of the *Juried Student Exhibition of the Department of Art & Design* on **Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** This exhibit displays a broad range of talent from our own Queensborough Community College students. It is the eleventh annual student exhibition held in the QCC Art Gallery. The exhibition will be on view through **April 19, 2019**.
- The QCC Art Gallery presents an *ART/New York* film series throughout the spring semester featuring artist documentaries produced by founder Paul Tschinkel. *ART/New York* is a video series on contemporary art established in 1979 by former QCC studio art professor Paul Tschinkel. This unique and extensive series focuses on the visual

arts and brings art, artists and exhibitions to a broad public interested in the latest developments on the New York art scene.

- Over the last 35 years, **ART/New York** has covered major exhibitions and artists who have defined and shaped the fascinating and diverse directions in contemporary art. Each program features visits to galleries, museums, artist's studios and includes revealing interviews with artists as well as the perspective views of critics, curators, and dealers. The schedule is as follows:
- **Thursday, February 21, 2019 - Barbara Kruger: Pictures & Words - 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Encore at 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, February 28, 2019 - Aspects of Minimalism - 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Encore at 5:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, March 6, 2019 - Kiki Smith -12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Encore at 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, March 13, 2019 - Jeff Koons: The Banality Show - 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Encore at 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Kupferberg Holocaust Center:

- **Dr. Laura Beth Cohen** has been hired as our new Kupferberg Holocaust Center Director. Dr. Cohen recently obtained her Ph.D. from Rutgers University where she completed her dissertation entitled, “*Conflicted Walls, Mixed Messages: Untangling Transitional Justice and Traumatic Memories at the Srebrenica (shreh breh neats za)-Potocari (Po to chari) Memorial Center*.” Previously, she obtained a Master in Science in Global Affairs from New York University where she wrote her thesis on “*Memorial Sites as Centers of Public Healing, Space and Education*.” (Dr. Cohen would you please stand so that we can officially welcome you to Queensborough Community College?)
- The current exhibit, on view through May, is ***Conspiracy of Goodness: How French Protestants Rescued Thousands of Jews during WWII***. This display presents the story of how an isolated Huguenot community in the Haute-Loire region saved approximately 3,500 Jews from Nazi Germany and the soldiers of Vichy France. Villagers of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon and the surrounding villages joined together to conceal, rescue and provide false documentation for Jews and French Resistance fighters at great risk to their own lives. It is the story of longtime KHC volunteers, Hanne and Max Liebmann who met in a concentration camp.
- **The KHC/NEH Colloquium Series for 2018-2019, *Survivance on Turtle Island: Engaging with Native American Cultural Survival, Resistance and Allyship***, is led by the KHC 2018-2019 Curator-in-Residence, **Kat Griefen**, from the Department of Art & Design. The seventh event in the series, **True Whispers: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers**, will be held on **Friday, March 1st, 2019 at 12:00pm**. True Whispers is a

documentary on the lives of the Navajo or Dine' people who were recruited by the U.S. Navy from residential boarding schools to fight against the Japanese in the Pacific theater of WWII. The Film screening will be followed by a Q&A with producer, Yvonne Russo.

- As part of the KHC 2018-2019 Cinema Series, the Center will be showing the film **Worse than War: Genocide, Eliminationism and the Ongoing Assault on Humanity** on **Wednesday, February 20 2019 at 12:10 p.m.** With his first book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, Daniel Jonah Goldhagen forced the world to re-think some of its most deeply-held beliefs about the Holocaust. A decade later, Goldhagen is convinced that the overall phenomenon of genocide is as poorly understood as the Holocaust had once been. How and why do genocides start? Why do the perpetrators kill? Why has intervention rarely occurred in a timely manner? These and other thought-provoking questions are explored in this documentary film. A group discussion will follow.

Queensborough Performing Arts Center (QPAC):

- **February 20, 2019 – March 20, 2019:**

QCC Dance Enrichment

Enrichment at QPAC is an exciting initiative serving the unique needs of the education and theatre communities by connecting professional artists with aspiring artists in an effort to provide cultural and artistic opportunities to QCC's own students.

- **Saturday, March 2, 2019 – 8:00 p.m.**

Kim Russo – The Happy Medium

Kim Russo, also known as “Kim The Happy Medium,” has been able to see the world of spirit since the young age of nine. Growing up, Kim often saw random spirits in her bedroom and sometimes felt their presence walking home with her from school. At that young age, not knowing what they wanted, she was frightened. Now, she is comforted by their presence, speaking to them more than she speaks to the living on some days. Kim now refers to that world as the Spirit World or (SW) for short. After growing up, pursuing a career in real estate, marrying and giving birth to three children, she soon realized that communicating with these entities would become her new “job.” Kim has appeared on *Dr. Oz*, and A & E's hit TV shows, *Paranormal State* and *Psychic Kids*. She has also appeared on The Biography Channel's *Celebrity Ghost Stories* featuring the Country Legend Music Star, Loretta Lynn, and was the host of the series *The Haunting Of* on the LMN channel. Join us for a special evening with Kim as she shares with us special messages from family and friends in spirit. Limited Seating. \$48 all seats

- **Friday, March 8, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.**

Friday Night Stand-Up! Dinner, Dancing and Comedy at Verdi's Restaurant in Whitestone

Everything you need for a super fun night out! You don't always need to go into Manhattan to have a good time, but you do need your appetite and dancing shoes for this

special event! All the food, drink and fun that New York has to offer! Feast on Verdi's sumptuous Italian buffet, recognized as the most outstanding cuisine on the Queens North Shore, and dance to a DJ playing today's top dance and party songs! And if that weren't enough, enjoy a performance of ***It's Your Line Now!*** Veteran comedians Al Isaacs, Scott Baker and Vinnie Mark bring the laughs, with some extra help from the audience. At this show, the punch lines are unpredictable, but you can count on the laughs! As seen at The Borgata, Tropicana, Foxwoods and The Mohegan Sun, these guys are the "quickest thinkers in show biz." Limited seating. Valet Parking. \$69