I would like to thank the many members of the Queens College community for your continuing interest in and support for the process currently underway to select the college’s next President.

The Queens College Presidential Search Committee considered dozens of candidates and eventually narrowed the field to nine semi-finalists, who were interviewed by the committee. From this group of highly qualified candidates, the committee has selected four finalists who have been invited to visit the campus.

The Queens College Presidential Search Committee is pleased to announce that the following four finalists will visit the campus on four separate days:

**Monday, May 12, 2014**
Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernández
Vice President for Engagement
Professor of Management Information Systems
Florida International University

**Wednesday, May 14, 2014**
Dr. Nasser Paydar
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

**Monday, May 19, 2014**
Dr. Melody Rose
Chancellor
Oregon University System

**Thursday, May 22, 2014**
Dr. Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
President
Eugenio María de Hostos Community College/CUNY
Each finalist will meet with members of the Faculty, Department Chairs, Student Representatives, Vice Presidents, Deans, Administrative Staff members, Alumni and Community representatives. Finalists will also address a one-hour Town Hall Meeting/Open Forum, to which all members of the community are invited. Following introductory comments by the candidates, audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Each of the campus groups selected to meet with the candidates will file a feedback advisory report. The Chancellor will include consideration of these reports in determining which candidate to recommend to the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Alice Pisciotta, Executive Assistant to the President, is serving as the campus liaison. She will circulate on campus a schedule for all meetings, as well as the location for each day’s Open Forum.

Biographies of each of the candidates are attached. The full curriculum vitae for each candidate are available through Ms. Pisciotta.

We are very grateful to the trustees and the faculty, presidential, students and Queens College Foundation representatives who served on the search committee with exemplary diligence and devotion to Queens College.

I would like to thank the Queens College community for your continued enthusiastic support.
Irma Becerra-Fernandez, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Engagement and  
Professor of Management Information Systems  
Florida International University

Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez is the Vice President for Engagement and Professor of Management Information Systems at Florida International University. She’s the prior Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs and the Founder and Program Co-Chair of the 2010 and 2011 Americas Venture Capital Conference. She’s also a Fellow and former Director of the Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center. Dr. Becerra-Fernandez was the MIT Sloan Visiting Scholar with the Center for Information Systems Research in the spring of 2009. Also, she is the 2007 Kauffman Entrepreneurship Professor.

As Vice President for Engagement, she is currently leading a portfolio of partnerships that serve to grow student talent, develop the community, and foster innovation. These activities include overseeing internships across the university and supporting Service Learning. Also managing the ACCESS collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Public School System and the Education Effect at Miami Northwestern and Booker T Washington High Schools, funded through the JP Morgan and Lennar foundations. Dr. Becerra-Fernandez also supports the leadership of the Life Sciences South Florida and the Academic Leaders Council collaborations on behalf of FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg.

Her research focuses on knowledge management (KM), KM systems, business intelligence, enterprise systems, disaster management, and IT entrepreneurship. She has studied and advised organizations, in particular NASA, about KM practices. She founded the FIU Knowledge Management Lab and has led multi-million dollar projects as principal investigator from the National Science Foundation, NASA (Headquarters, Kennedy, Ames, and Goddard Space Flight Center), and the Air Force Research Lab to develop organizational KM strategies and innovative KM systems.

She has published extensively in leading journals, including the Journal of MIS, Decision Sciences, Communications of the ACM, European Journal of Operational Research, IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, ACM Transactions on Internet Technology, Knowledge Based Systems, International Journal of Expert Systems Research & Applications, and others. She is an author of the books Business Intelligence: Practices, Technologies, & Management (Wiley, 2010), Knowledge Management: Systems and Processes (M.E. Sharpe, 2010), Knowledge Management: Challenges, Solutions, and Technologies (Prentice Hall, 2004) and co-editor of the monograph Knowledge Management: An Evolutionary View of the Field (M.E. Sharpe, 2008). She has delivered many invited presentations and keynote speeches at several NASA Centers, the NAVY Research Lab, universities around the world, and international conferences with both an academic and a practitioner focus. She was a prior faculty director for the Masters in MIS and the MIS Ph.D. programs, and serves on the editorial board of the International Journal of Knowledge Management, International Journal of Knowledge and Learning, and the International Journal of Mobile Learning and Organization among others.
Dr. Becerra-Fernandez was the recipient of the 2014 Miami Today Bronze Medal Award for outstanding contributions to Greater Miami, the 2013 Educator of the Year by Great Minds in STEM, the 2012 In the Company of Women Award for Education and Research by the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, the 2011 Engineer of the Year Award by the Association of Cuban Engineers, the 2004 Outstanding Faculty Torch Award, presented by the FIU Alumni Association, the 2006 FIU Faculty Teaching Award and the 2001 FIU Faculty Research Award. She served as the Americas Region representative to the Association for Information Systems Executive Council. She has served as the faculty director for the Masters in MIS and the director of the MIS Ph.D. Program. Finally, Dr. Becerra-Fernandez was the first female to receive a Ph.D. from FIU’s Engineering Program. She earned her Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1994 and her Masters and Bachelors, also in electrical engineering, from the University of Miami.
Nasser H. Paydar, Ph.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis

In 2012, Nasser Paydar became Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of IUPUI – A core campus of Indiana University and the State’s urban research and academic health sciences campus with 2,700 faculty, 30,000 students, and an annual budget of $1.3 billion, which includes external research funding of about $300 million.

Dr. Paydar oversees 22 deans and schools, including the schools of liberal arts and sciences, as well as professional schools like art & design, business, dentistry, education, engineering & technology, journalism, health and rehabilitation sciences, informatics and computing, law, nursing, philanthropy, physical education and tourism management, public and environmental affairs, public health, and social work. Other units reporting to Dr. Paydar are: Faculty Appointments and Advancement, Vice-Chancellor for Research, Centers for Teaching and Learning, Center for Service and Learning, Division of Continuing Studies, Graduate Office, Enrollment Services, International Programs, University Library, and the IUPUI Honors College. As second in command at IUPUI, he often interacts with the Board of Trustees, alumni and the Indianapolis community at academic, cultural and fundraising events.

Dr. Paydar joined Indiana University in 1985 as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the School of Engineering and Technology at IUPUI. From 1989 to 2003, he served the School as Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, and Executive Associate Dean. In the Spring 2004, Dr. Paydar became responsible for the Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus (IUPUC) Center as Vice Chancellor and Dean. Dr. Paydar served as Chancellor of Indiana University East from 2007 to 2012.

Nasser Paydar is a graduate of Syracuse University, New York, with a Ph.D. from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He serves on a number of national committees and boards and has delivered numerous invited talks on higher education in the U.S. Dr. Paydar is engaged in the community and has served on local economic development boards, chamber committees, and philanthropic organizations. He has extensive publications in scientific journals in the area of solid mechanics with applications in electronic packaging and biomechanics. Nasser Paydar has been principal and co-principal investigator of research grants from National Institutes of Health, Cummins Electronics, Lumina Foundations, Carrier Electronics, Delco Electronics Corporations, Rockwell International, DePuy Inc., U.S. Army, and U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center.
Melody Rose, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Oregon University System

Dr. Melody Rose is Chancellor of the Oregon University System (OUS) and a nationally-recognized scholar of women and politics. As the System’s chief executive officer, she oversees $5.5 billion in state assets and a half-billion dollar budget distributed across seven public universities, providing statewide leadership during a time of tremendous change in higher education. As the first female chancellor of the OUS, Rose’s work supports 100,000 public university students in Oregon.

Dr. Rose also served as the System’s chief academic officer. As Vice Chancellor for Academic Strategies at the OUS, her portfolio included leading strategic planning for the System in collaboration with the State Board of Higher Education; preparing academic policies for the Board and developing initiatives to address critical program needs; supporting PK-20 alignment focused on student preparation for and success in college; providing leadership for student success initiatives which increase access, affordability, retention and graduation rates; fostering public-private partnerships in engineering and computer science and K-12 pre-college programming; enhancing partnerships with business organizations; overseeing the System’s institutional research and analytical work; designing and maintaining the System’s performance measurement framework and overseeing its achievement compacts with the Oregon Education Investment Board; serving as permanent co-chair of the OUS Provosts’ Council; and serving as an integral member of the Chancellor’s executive cabinet.

Before moving to the Oregon University System, Dr. Rose served in a number of roles at Portland State University (PSU), culminating in her service as Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Instruction and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. In that role, she was responsible for institutional accreditation and assessment, and all matters of both undergraduate and graduate curricula and instruction. She oversaw eleven direct reports, had responsibility for the 60 faculty in her units, and managed a $15 million budget. Her reporting units included the university’s nationally-recognized general education program (University Studies), the Office of Graduate Studies, the PSU Honors Program, the Center for Online Learning, the McNair Scholars and Army GOLD programs, and the Center for Academic Excellence.

While on the PSU faculty, Melody authored a number of award-winning books, articles, and chapters on the U.S. presidency, social policy, women & politics, and elections. Melody is also the founder and first director of the Center for Women, Politics & Policy; in that role, her efforts in development yielded $1 million in funding from state, foundation, corporate, and individual sources to sustain the Center’s many activities. Melody was also professor and chair of the political science division before moving into academic administration, and participated in various forms of faculty leadership, including faculty contract negotiations and a presidential appointment to the Long Term Institutional and Financial Strategies Committee (LTIFS). Melody earned the 2008 PSU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Faculty award for excellence in research, teaching and community engagement.

Outside of work, Melody volunteers for education, civic engagement, and women’s organizations. She was recognized as a 2013 Portland Business Journal “Women of Influence” winner, and received the 2010 Governor’s Women of Achievement Award. In 2011, Melody was elected President of the City Club.
of Portland; with 1400 members, it is one of the nation’s oldest and most venerable civic associations. While president, she brought more youth into the civic life of the region through City Club membership and participation, spearheaded innovative programming, and exceeded the Club’s fundraising goals. She is currently an active member of the International Women’s Forum.

Melody received her Bachelor’s degree in Politics from the University of California at Santa Cruz with Honors and Phi Beta Kappa distinctions. She earned a Master in Public Administration, Master in Government, and Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University. Her fourth book, an edited volume entitled Women and Executive Office: Pathways and Performance, was published during the 2012 elections. She is the mother of four spectacular children.
Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Ph.D.
President
Eugenio María de Hostos Community College/CUNY

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez has held leadership positions in higher education, government and foundations in which he combined his scholarship with social policy, advocacy, and change. He took office as President of Hostos Community College of the City University of New York (CUNY) in 2009.

Previously, Dr. Matos Rodríguez served as Secretary of the Department of the Family for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, managing an annual budget of $2.2 billion and nearly 11,000 employees. Earlier, he had served as Senior Social Welfare and Health Advisor to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Matos Rodríguez is a cum laude graduate in Latin American Studies from Yale University. He received his Ph.D. in history from Columbia University.

While at Hostos, Dr. Matos Rodríguez is on leave from his tenured position as a Professor of Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies at Hunter College, where he teaches courses on Caribbean, Latin American, and Latino history. He has also served as director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter, which is one of the largest and most important Latino research and archival centers in the United States. In addition, Dr. Matos Rodríguez was affiliated with the History Department at CUNY’s Graduate Center.

Prior to working at Hunter College, Dr. Matos Rodríguez was a Program Officer at the Social Science Research Council in New York City and a faculty member at Northeastern University in Boston.

Dr. Matos Rodriguez is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and is currently serving as a Board Member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, New York Association of Community College Presidents, Phipps Houses, and FedCap. Dr. Matos Rodríguez is also part of the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU) Liberal Education Editorial Advisory Board, and HACU’s International Education Commission. He has previously served as a board member of the American Council on Education (ACE), ASPIRA of New York, Inc., and Phipps Community Development Corporation, as well as the community advisory board of El Diario/La Prensa.

Dr. Matos Rodríguez has an extensive publication record in the fields of Women’s, Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Latino Studies and Migration. He is the author of Women and Urban Life in Nineteenth-century San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1820-1862 (University Presses of Florida, 1999); co-author of “Pioneros”: Puerto Ricans in New York City, 1896-1948 (Arcadia Publishers, 2001); editor of A Nation of Women, An Early Feminist Speaks Out by Luisa Capetillo (Arte Público Press, 2005); co-editor with Gabriel Haslip Viera et al. of Boricuas in Gotham: Puerto Ricans in the Making of Modern New York City (Marcus Weiner, 2004); co-editor with Matthew C. Gutmann, Lynn Stephen, and Patricia Zavella of Blackwell...

Dr. Matos Rodríguez’ work has been published in such peer-reviewed journals as the Journal of Urban History, the Public Historian, Latin American Research Review, Centro Journal, Revista de Ciencias Sociales, and the Boletín de la Asociación de Demografía Histórica, in addition to having chapters in several anthologies. He was the founding editor of the series New Directions in Puerto Rican Studies, published by the University Press of Florida.