A Message from the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank D. Sanchez

Swimming in Today’s Technology Current

Bill Gates once said, “Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important.”

A variety of technology platforms including new products, social media and mobile devices have redefined how students are engaging higher education. From my seat, it has become apparent the traditional delivery of instruction, providing support services and building student community have quickly become dated as students are now immersed within the IT world inside and outside the classroom walls. With this said and despite the ubiquitous nature of technology, our institutions’ human resources (faculty, staff, administrators) are the common denominator in determining how to best deploy and use technology platforms (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Blackboard etc.) as a necessity to ensure effective communication and build meaningful relationships with students. More specifically, our student services professionals must prepare to jump into the virtual river with our college students; in effect, swimming with today’s technology fish.

As fewer resources are supporting colleges and universities nationally, traditional student affairs operations will likely not have enough advisors, counselors and support staff to provide the level of responsiveness and support students are now expecting. Instead, student affairs professionals must identify technologies to not only effectively deliver services but provide a better quality of service. Student Affairs operations must explore scalable online services such as tutoring, advising and counseling as well as invest in psychologically-small virtual learning communities. This technology will facilitate peer study groups, mentoring, student activities and information sharing important for a high-quality collegiate experience. Similarly, personalizing the service experience of admissions, registration and financial aid as well as promoting high impact activities such as study abroad, undergraduate research and service learning can be elevated across the learning enterprise with human and virtual encouragement.

The tide of technology as it relates to the student collegiate experience is here. For student affairs professionals it is time to suit up and join those students we serve. Whether you start slowly by learning more about mobile devices or leap in with a Twitter account, (my handle is: @FrankDSanchez), please enjoy the school of students you will encounter, serve and support as they are eagerly awaiting.

Yours in education and happy swimming,

Frank
Policy Updates

Non-Discrimination of Students on the Basis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Related Conditions

On May 9, 2013, General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, Frederick P. Schaffer issued a memorandum regarding Non-Discrimination of Students on the Basis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Related Conditions. The memo, sent to CUNY Faculty and Staff, reminds the University community of the University’s obligations and the University’s Policy on Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination. See the memo at http://www1.cuny.edu/mu/vc_la/2013/05/09/memo-to-faculty-and-staff/

CUNY Launches New Student Health Insurance Program

The City University of New York has announced a new student health insurance program for the 2013-14 academic year. The selection of United Healthcare, the nation’s largest health insurer, was completed through a careful proposal evaluation process placing the needs of students as a top priority. The new program meets or exceeds all of the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. View detailed information for all students at http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/sa/services/student-health/insurance.html

Paper by Dr. Chris Rosa Chosen for The Friends of Bruce Springsteen Special Collection

This summer, Dr. Chris Rosa, University Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, learned his paper had been chosen for The Friends of Bruce Springsteen Special Collection. The paper, “Cripple on the Corner: Springsteen’s Vision of Disability in America,” is now part of The Collection that Executive Director Bob Crane says “…serves the research and informational needs of music fans, scholars, authors and others with a serious interest in Bruce Springsteen’s life and career… (Chris makes) insightful connections which many serious fans, this one included, may have never considered; and that, in my view, results in a major expansion of our understanding of Bruce’s work.” Link to the paper at http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/sa/services/disabilities/CRosaPaperCrippleOnTheCorner.pdf, with more about the collection at www.brucespringsteenspecialcollection.net

October is National Careers in Student Affairs Month!

Take advantage of month-long activities including free NASPA webinars in celebration of the profession of Student Affairs! Link to http://www.naspa.org/career/csam/webinars.cfm. Also view Steps to Explore a Career in Student Affairs http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/sa/newsletter/StepsToExploringACareerInSA.pdf and 12 Ways to Celebrate Careers in Student Affairs http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/sa/newsletter/12WaysToCelebrate.pdf
CUNY Students Participate in Entrepreneurship Forum at the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

The International Student & Scholar Services Office, CUNY Central Office of Student Affairs, sponsored a group of students to participate in the 5th ATHGO Global Innovation Forum, “Information Communications Technology (ICT) Powering Constructive Entrepreneurs.” ATHGO (Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities) is a nonprofit organization that promotes worldwide sustainable business practices.

Held May 21-24 at the World Bank in Washington, D.C, the forum presented 10 international and domestic students with the opportunity to address topics seen as global challenges. The students from Baruch College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Brooklyn College, Bronx Community College, City College, College of Staten Island and the Queens College English Language Institute were asked to develop innovative business solutions, utilizing information and communications technologies. Guided by a series of sessions that incorporated knowledge development, collaborative planning and networking activities, more than 120 students and young professionals from around the world teamed up to take part in a start-up competition.

In keeping with the objective, participants were asked to identify a problem and turn it into an opportunity. The sessions were driven by social entrepreneurship advocates and leaders in government, business and the global information technology and communications industry. Leading the students were: Paul Garnett, Director, Technology Policy Group, Microsoft; Enrico Pisino, Head of Innovation, Chrysler Group LLC; Marie Therese Royce, Senior Director, International Affairs, Alcatel-Lucent; Mr. Chris S. Thomas, Chief Strategist, World Ahead Director of Architecture, Intel Corporation; Denis O’Brien, Chairman of Digicel Group (the largest mobile telecommunications operators in the Caribbean); Ms. Daniella M. Foster, Director, Public-Private Partnerships, U.S. Department of State; and Rwandan Head of State, President Paul Kagame who gave an inspiring keynote address. Throughout the 3-day conference, these distinguished guests and more than ten other visionaries and innovators engaged and advised students with speeches, panel discussions, group dialogues and one-on-one conversations. (Continued on page 6)
CUNY LEADS Presents at the National Career Development Association

In July, Roberta Adelman, Program Director and Barbara Bookman, Director of Program Relations & Professional Development presented “CUNY LEADS: The Future is Now” at the 100th annual conference of the National Career Development Association. The dynamic and well-attended conference held in Boston focused on career development and strategies for finding success in the ever-changing labor market and economy.

Featured as the keynote speaker was Dr. Temple Grandin, a highly successful livestock facility designer who was very outspoken about her experiences as an individual diagnosed with severe autism as a young child. In selecting a keynote speaker with a disability and workshops that focused on career development for individuals with various disabilities, conference planners made it clear that the area is gaining a lot of attention at campus career services centers across the nation.

CUNY was well represented at the conference. The CUNY LEADS (Linking, Employment, Academics and Disabilities Services) workshop was well attended by career professionals who expressed considerable enthusiasm about the possibility of replicating a similar program on their campuses. Other CUNY professionals making presentations included Melba Olmeda Almaro and Driada Rivas of Borough of Manhattan Community College and Danielle Magaldi-Dopman and Tamisha Bouknight of Lehman College.

News From Project Reach

Project REACH Funding Renewed: Thanks to the generosity and support of the FAR Fund, Project REACH will continue its groundbreaking work. The FAR Fund announced that the program was approved for renewal grant funding of $100,000 for another full year. To have a grant renewed, programs must demonstrate measurable success. Project REACH thanks Shirlee Taylor of the FAR Fund for her guidance and support throughout its first year, and looks forward to another successful year.

Project REACH Award: Among many accolades this past year, PROJECT REACH recently received an unsolicited financial award from the Alexander Tognino Foundation. (The Alexander Tognino Foundation is committed to supporting exceptional education, healthcare and special needs programs.) For Project REACH, the award confirms the excellent strides it is making and that it provides an innovative approach to helping students on the spectrum to succeed. Project REACH extends thanks to John Tognino and the Alexander Tognino Foundation for the prestigious award and for their support and guidance from the Project’s inception.
Eighth Annual CUNY BMI Conference Explores “Race, Law and Justice”

The Eighth Annual CUNY Black Male Initiative (BMI) Conference was held on Friday, October 4, 2013 at York College. The conference, “Race, Law and Justice,” attracted a capacity audience of students, faculty, elected officials, administrators and guests to a full day of keynote speakers and panel discussions. The day’s theme was dedicated to exposing CUNY BMI undergraduates to the racial history of the struggle for equality and its ongoing manifestation in contemporary American society.

CUNY BMI University Director, Elliott Dawes, reported that 1,029 people registered to attend including 383 CUNY students, 71 CUNY alumni, 93 CUNY administrators; 34 CUNY full-time faculty members and 31 CUNY adjunct faculty members. Middle and high school students from the New York City Department of Education were also in attendance during the morning and early afternoon sessions. Conference keynote speakers included Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel of LatinoJustice/PRLDEF; Paul Butler, Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center; and Ron Daniels, Distinguished Lecturer at CUNY’s York College.

CUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank D. Sanchez, York College President, Marcia V. Keizs and Vice President for Student Development, Geneva Walker-Johnson offered greetings to the diverse audience assembled. Council member Leroy Comrie was also on hand to meet and greet students and the CUNY community.

CUNY BMI University Director Elliott Dawes expressed his gratitude to the conference planning committee members including Jonathan Quash, director, York College Men’s Center; Olubukola Ogunmola, program assistant, York College Men’s Center; Jermaine Wright, CUNY BMI associate director; Deborah Douglass, Maxine Henry and Natasha Williams of CUNY COPE; Charlene Griffin and Cassandra Jones of the College Initiative, and Jaye Jones, director of Lehman College Adult Literacy Center. Link to photos of the 8th Annual CUNY BMI conference at https://plus.google.com/photos/110794337578983764894/albums/593182235161119633?authkey=CNHc9bOWp4KTrAE

Broad promotion of the BMI conference garnered an invitation from the producers of the African-American public affairs television program “HERE AND NOW.” Representatives from the program contacted Jonathan Quash and Mr. Ajani Brown to appear on the show to discuss the work of the York College Male Initiative. View the segment at the HERE & NOW website at http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/video?id=9274957

With a ninth consecutive BMI program grant from the New York City Council, CUNY has established projects to support the enrollment and retention of students from underrepresented groups in all five boroughs of New York City and at all the CUNY senior, comprehensive and community college including the Graduate Center and the CUNY Law School.

“I take great pride in the many programs and services the initiative offers our students and the broader CUNY and New York City communities, including doctoral study preparation programs, a distinguished speaker series, summer pipeline programs, and a range of academic support services at CUNY’s campuses across the five boroughs.”

William P. Kelly
Interim Chancellor
The City University of New York

“The CUNY BMI has represented a bold outreach in the recruitment and retention of young men into the college structure, many of whom, especially those of Black and Hispanic origin, may not otherwise have considered the college option. This ambitious program has provided academic instruction, counseling and mentorship to over 7,000 students to date.”

Marcia V. Keizs
York College President
Adrian Moore, an international student from Brooklyn College, critiqued the day observing: “The various speakers provided anecdotes and advice that is not second-hand, but wisdom acquired through hard work and personal sacrifice. They gave us the opportunity to gain knowledge and make connections that would have otherwise been impossible.”

Twenty different teams, consisting of six members each, developed plans for cutting-edge start-ups. Jeremy Sze, a Baruch College student, helped lead the team developing “Pill Buzz,” a prescription compliance system that operates via text message. City College student, Joenard Camarista lead his team in creating a plan for InnoLimb 3D, an individualized accessible prosthetic printer.

Three of the teams were awarded seed money and a virtual platform via ATHGO to further develop their projects. The first-place team won $3,000 for presenting a plan to use UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) to provide emergency medical solutions to disaster prone areas. The second-place team won $2,000 with a project to purify water in unused shipping containers in areas where unclean water is problematic. $1,000 went to the third-place team—Team Momentum. Their idea was inspired by the need to grant remote areas greater access to electricity. This was done by pedaling a bike to charge a battery device connected to the bike. Ricci Niles, a recent Borough of Manhattan Community College graduate and advisor on the team, named the product Momentum “…because it is based on the concept of forward motion, both figuratively and literally.”

Many of the teams will move forward with their start-ups and/or use forum concepts, experiences and networking opportunities to continue projects or create new ones. Most agreed that they learned important ideas to take with them including an optimistic view of failure as advised by Stephanie von Friedeburg, Chief Information Officer and VP of Information Management and Technology for the World Bank Group. In her keynote address she advised the students, “Entrepreneurs do not fail—they pivot.”
The Far Rockaway community is making great progress toward rebuilding after Superstorm Sandy. Volunteers, including many CUNY students, have made a tremendous impact in helping people there to regain their lives. New buildings are being constructed. Old ones are being remodeled, and landscaping projects are bringing life back to the Rockaways. This summer, students from the Malave Leadership Academy (MLA) CUNY Corps continued their commitment to help Far Rockaway by partnering up with the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance (RWA) and the University of Massachusetts, Boston ProjectServe Program. (RWA is a nonprofit organization committed to revitalizing the environmental health of the Rockaways.)

UMASS-Boston students conducted a seed donation drive and sent the collected seed packets to MLA to plant in affected areas. The initiative was a follow-up to their work last December cleaning out homes with MLA students and the City College’s Engineers Without Borders; and it demonstrated the shift of the volunteer efforts from clean-up to rebuilding and neighborhood revitalization.

CUNY Corps students spent hours canvassing the grassy areas in Far Rockaway to replace old damaged trees with new vibrant ones, and planted beautiful flowers in a community garden and areas designated for environmental rehabilitation. Assemblyman Philip Goldfeder commended the work: “Nearly 85% of my district was damaged during Hurricane Sandy, and it was through the kindness of strangers that we survived. I applaud the students of the Malave Leadership Academy of the City University of New York and UMASS-Boston, ProjectServe for their excellent work in assisting our communities with Sandy relief. These remarkable students, like many other volunteers, have been instrumental to the reconstruction of our community to become more resilient for the future.” CUNY Corps students also expressed their pride. “I had both a learning and informative experience,” said CUNY Corps student Tricia Warren. “I gained knowledge about environmental rehabilitation and enjoyed meeting and working with the other volunteers.” As a result, the Malave Leadership Academy reports that it has cultivated a great partnership with RWA and will continue to work with them to rebuild a stronger and vibrant community.
News From the CUNY Newswire:

**Doors Open for Young Minds: Lehman and CUNY Dedicate Unique New Child Care Center**


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**November is CUNY Month!**

You can look forward to an array of public events sponsored across campuses in every borough. Check out the [CUNY.edu](http://www.cuny.edu) website in the weeks ahead for a full calendar of events!