Dear CUNY Student Affairs Staff and Friends,

Strategic planning in the Central Office of Student Affairs (COSA) continues to unfold as we prepare for budget planning and the 2011-2012 commencement season. Over the last several months, our leadership has identified several top priorities to focus our attention, energy and resources on over the next several years.

While the details related to specific action items are still in development, we have clarified the following priorities and investment themes:

1. Student Success and Degree Completion

We must invest in effective, high-quality services, programs and policies for students, specifically to increase retention, progress toward degree-completion and graduation as well as student learning and development.

2. Campus Life and Engagement

Moving forward, we will invest in enhancing the quality and quantity of student engagement and the campus experience. We will do this by supporting student life and campus activities, experiential learning opportunities and facilitating meaningful student-faculty interactions.

3. Hi-Tech/Hi-Touch Technology

Clearly we must leverage information technology and web applications to better serve our students. By emphasizing IT in Student Affairs, we can improve administrative efficiencies and enhance student communication as well as the delivery of student programs, services and experiences.

4. Assessment/Effectiveness

The future success of Student Affairs will be guided by the development of a culture of evidence and expanding the use of assessment and evaluation methods. Student Affairs must adequately measure effectiveness and impact in order to improve services and policies and, ultimately, better serve students.

5. Professional Development

COSA will invest in Student Affairs professional staff by offering more significant professional development opportunities and encouraging participation in professional associations. Our greatest resource is our professional staff; as such, we will provide more opportunities to develop the strengths, talents and expertise of our staff.

6. Entrepreneurial Collaborations

Student Affairs will identify and advance external partnerships in order to generate new funding as well as enhance the quality of the CUNY student experience. Cultivating city, state, national, private and governmental partnerships through development activities, grants and innovative collaborations will be a key Student Affairs initiative in the coming years.

Strategic planning for COSA could not be more important at this time as the University prepares for stable state budgets and tuition revenue. Towards that end, the aforementioned priorities will be used as guiding principles as we determine the best strategies and actions to chart our future service and support of CUNY students.

All my best,

Frank D. Sanchez, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
City University of New York
Policy Updates

Budget Update –
CUNY LEADS and Child Care Aid Restored in CUNY 2012 – 2013 State Adopted Budget

The fiscal year 2012-13 State Adopted budget includes $1.0 million for the CUNY LEADS program (Linking Employment, Academics and Disability Services), which provides academic and career counseling as well as internship and job placement assistance to students with disabilities. For the community colleges, the FY2012 legislative increase of $0.5 million for child care that was not included in the FY2013 executive budget has been restored. CUNY has 19 campus-based childcare centers that offer first-rate early care and education programs, helping parents to balance the demands of family, work and school.

The FY2013 state adopted budget for the senior colleges totals $2.057 billion, an increase of $138.4 million, or 7.2%, over the current year. On the operating side, the enacted budget maintains the executive recommendation of $70.8 million in additional state aid and $66.6 million in increased tuition revenue. Community Colleges are provided $198.7 million, an increase of $21.9 million from FY2012 levels. Preliminary details of the budget are included in a report at: http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/bf/040412FY2013StateAdoptedBudgetAnalysis.pdf.

CUNY’s Pathways Initiative

In April, the Office of Student Affairs in collaboration with the Office of Academic Affairs created a list of frequently-asked-questions (FAQs) to be made available to all CUNY students concerning the Pathways project.

Hundreds of Student Affairs Professionals Join CUNY in a “Declaration of Service” At National Conference

At the March 2012 Annual Conference of the National Association of Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) held in Phoenix, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Frank Sanchez introduced a “Declaration of Service” to bring into focus the issue of serving undocumented students and to showcase CUNY’s leadership in this area. During the event (which was co-sponsored by the CUNY Office of University Relations and the Division of Student Affairs), nearly 400 attendees at the Conference joined CUNY in a recommitment to serve all students regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

After signing the “Declaration of Service,” signatories placed a stick-pin on their home states on a 44” x 110” map of the United States with the declarations posted around the map. (Next year, the declarations will be mailed back to signatories to remind them of their commitment.) Conference Chair, Dr. Larry Roper, commented on the event stating “I was impressed with this initiative and the support it generated…you modeled for us another way to both educate and engage members (in)…a thoughtful approach to this issue.” Dr. Roper is Vice Provost for Student Affairs at Oregon State University.

Volunteers from several CUNY campuses were on hand to distribute information about CUNY’s efforts to support undocumented students, including: Michael Sullivan, Norma Cofresi (Lehman); Vice President Paulette Dalpes, Brian Mitra, Anthony Blake, and NASPA Undergraduate Program Fellows Jennifer Fernandez and Andre Doeman (Kingsborough); Renee Butler, Danielle Insalaco-Egan, LaVora Desvigne (LaGuardia); Vice President Berenecea Johnson-Eanes (John Jay); Vice Chancellor Frank Sanchez, Roberta Nord (Central Office of Student Affairs). The information included a statement by CUNY’s Chancellor Matthew Goldstein in support of the New York State DREAM Act which would allow for New York State financial aid for undocumented students who meet CUNY’s in-state tuition requirements.

NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession.

Baruch Movie Screening Chronicles Challenges of Immigrant Family

On March 23rd, the SEEK Program and Latino student clubs at Baruch College held a screening of the movie “A Better Life,” that chronicles the challenges of the undocumented. Currently in theatres, the movie is directed by Chris Weitz, the director of the movie “New Moon” in The Twilight Saga, who was in attendance for the screening. Proceeds from the event go to the United We Dream Network whose aim is to achieve equal access to higher education for all people, regardless of immigration status. Notably, a recent article in the Washington Post highlights how movies such as "A Better Life" and "The Help" are being utilized by activists to mobilize social justice causes. You can link to the article at http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/activists-bolster-political-causes-with-the-help-and-a-better-life/2012/02/28/glOAeg6BiR_story_2.html
On February 2, 2012, CUNY Trustee Dr. Hugo Morales, chairman of the Dominican American Foundation, and Senior Vice Chancellor and Board Secretary Jay Hershenson hosted a luncheon meeting at The City College to provide Dominican American community leaders with an informal opportunity to meet and exchange discourse with Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Frank D. Sanchez. Discussion centered on the need for increased collaboration and partnership-building to more effectively meet the needs of the rapidly growing Latino student population. (According to a PEW study, colleges nationwide experienced a 24% increase in Latino student enrollment between 2010 and 2011, significantly swelling the population of 24,500 Dominican American Students enrolled at CUNY in fall 2010.)

Luncheon participants included New York State Senator Adriano Espaillat, the first elected assemblyman of Dominican descent in the United States and graduate of the Percy E. Sutton SEEK program at CUNY; Chairperson of the Education Committee of the New York City Council Ydanis Rodríguez, a City College graduate; representatives of business and civic organizations citywide, and CUNY students, faculty and staff members. The program was moderated by Sr. Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson and guests were welcomed to Shepard Hall by City College President Lisa S. Coico. Following remarks by Trustee Morales, Vice Chancellor Sanchez led a discussion and Q&A about the unique opportunities and challenges facing today’s students and CUNY’s work to develop a coalition involving leaders in education, business and community-based organizations, to look at Latino success across the city. The initiative is supported by a $600,000 grant from the Lumina Foundation that will help to create student success programs across four CUNY colleges: Hostos Community College, The City College, John Jay College for Criminal Justice, and Lehman College. In expressing his appreciation to the leaders in attendance, Vice Chancellor Sanchez encouraged efforts “…to closely collaborate on a redesign of how we educate our students. We have to create opportunities for our students, and we have to do it in Student Affairs.”

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**“Future Challenges and Opportunities for Today’s Urban Students” Luncheon Roundtable Held at The City College**

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**Announcements**

*The Lumina Foundation* selected CUNY and the Hispanic Federation to lead a partnership aimed at producing more Latino college graduates. **Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Frank D. Sanchez** said three or four campuses will get dedicated latino upper-class mentors, social services, college advisers, specialized tutoring, career support and leadership training.

**The Office of Special Programs** received a $400,000 College Access Challenge Grant (CAGC) from the **NYS Higher Education Services Corporation**. The goal of the CAGC program is to support at-risk populations, and help them with access to college and to persist through graduation. The award consists of nine projects targeted to improving the student performance outcomes of SEEK and College Discovery students. Participating CUNY colleges, with specific and targeted project agendas, include: Baruch, BMCC, Brooklyn, Hostos, John Jay, Kingsborough, Medgar Evers and NYCCT. The Central Office project will build on the successful SEEK/CD Student Leadership Academy (SLA) by creating a University-wide student organization and providing a longitudinal review of the SLA.

**Vice President for Student Affairs, Paulette Dalpes**, of Kingsborough Community College has received a $232,115 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for “TRIO: Student Support Services.”

A paper by **Dr. Vanessa M. Bing** entitled “Addressing Intimate Partner Violence on College Campuses: Strategies and Opportunities,” was published this fall in NYS Psychologist. Dr. Bing collaborates on programs at the LaGuardia Community College Women’s Center. Find the article in the fall 2011 online issue.
CUNY and Single Stop USA Celebrate Students’ Financial Gains

On March 27th, the CUNY Office of University Relations and the Division of Student Affairs hosted a reception at the Central Office in recognition of the successful three-year partnership between Single Stop USA and CUNY. Single Stop is a not-for-profit organization that connects low-income families with public benefits tax credits and other essential services that they may not know exist. The CUNY/Single Stop partnership is part of a national community college initiative to bring the services to colleges that traditionally provide entry to higher education for low income students. It aims to increase retention and graduation rates by increasing students’ financial stability.

Senior Vice Chancellor and Secretary of the Board, Jay Hershenson, moderated the luncheon event that included remarks from Chancellor Goldstein to the assembled audience of college presidents and vice presidents, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank D. Sanchez, and staff and administrators. Other program executives and managers on hand included Single Stop’s CEO and Co-Founder, Elizabeth Mason and Mr. Michael Weinstein of the Robin Hood Foundation. Students Zimran Samuel of Queensborough Community College and Shivani Jaikissoon of Kingsborough Community College spoke appreciatively of the stability the program provides them. “Because of Single Stop, I’m able to put my concerns aside and focus more on my academic goals,” said Zimran. “I have a long way to go but with Single Stop, I know I will reach my destination.”

The reception celebrated the launch of the tax preparation season which last year generated $6 million in tax returns for CUNY students. Returns from this year’s tax season are expected to be significantly higher. Counselors use a computerized benefits calculator—similar to Turbo Tax—to help determine a family’s eligibility for a wide spectrum of benefits and tax credits. Clients learn not only the services they qualify for, but also how claiming one benefit may adversely affect another. Experienced counselors use the information to guide clients through the process of applying for benefits—from tax credits, health insurance and nutrition to federal and state subsidies for childcare, housing assistance, and welfare-to-work initiatives. Legal counseling and financial planning advice are also available at Single Stop sites. As of the 3rd quarter of the current fiscal year, Single Stop has already generated $9,973,980 in benefits for CUNY community college students and their families—not including tax returns. The benefit to cost ratio for this year is 15:1. That is for every $1 expended, $15 dollars of benefit has been confirmed.

Learn more about Single Stop at Kingsborough Community College: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqKJJSOTOYw

The CUNY Women’s Centers will receive $4800 from the Diversity Projects Development Fund. The Fund was developed to support scholarly research projects and other educational activities for or about populations that are traditionally under-represented within higher education. The funded project, "Assessing Women's Centers Services and Linking Them to Student Success," will be used to develop a comprehensive survey that will create a broad overview of women’s center resources across different service models and collect data from focus groups and student surveys to learn how the Women’s Centers impact student success.

The College of Staten Island Counseling Center has recently been granted accreditation by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS) Inc. The CSI Counseling Center is the first CUNY Counseling Center to be granted this accreditation, an acknowledgement of high-quality services, ethical practices and staff dedication.

Stephen Clark, Central Office of Student Affairs, CUNY Veterans Affairs, was elected Vice President of the New York State Advisory Council for Military Educators and elected to the New York City Community Advisory Board for the US Army Education Subcommittee as Chairperson, in 2011.

Lisa Pollich, Disability Accommodations Specialist at CUNY’s Central Office of Student Affairs, has earned a PhD degree in Sociology from the CUNY Graduate School and University Center. Lisa’s work serves to raise awareness of neurological disorders and hidden/invisible disabilities in the workplace.

Dr. Christopher Rosa, University Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, was interviewed on station Q104.3 urging continued support for CUNY LEADS, the enhanced career development program that supports students with disabilities. Link to the interview: http://www.q1043.com/player/?station=WAXO_FM&program_name=podcast&program_id=community.xml&mid=21889451
The CUNY Office for Veterans’ Affairs Professional Development Conference Held at the Graduate Center

In terms of quality engagement, participants agreed that the veteran and civilian dialogue was one of the highlights of the 4th Annual Professional Development conference sponsored by the CUNY Office for Veterans’ Affairs. Members of state and local veterans affairs groups and organizations joined CUNY faculty, students and staff at the February 10th event together with Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Frank D. Sanchez who, on behalf of the University, expressed gratitude to the veterans for their service to the country. Recounting CUNY’s commitment to veterans, Vice Chancellor Sanchez noted research underway to examine the quality of the veteran experience on CUNY campuses and the formation of a special taskforce to provide recommendations to the campuses. In addition, CUNY has been awarded a $540,000 grant to replicate and expand PROVE (the Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education) across the community college campuses. In light of a 55% increase in student veteran enrollment and approximately 3,000 student vets on CUNY’s campuses, efforts are being made to “be very strategic about where the University places its resources,” said VC Sanchez.

His remarks were positive news to conference attendee Ann Little. Ann is a student-vet and CUNY vet center staff member at the College of Staten Island who served in the U.S. army for five years and deployed twice to Iraq—first to Baghdad in 2003 and then to Mosul in 2005. Currently a graduate student at the College of Staten Island with a 4.0 gpa, she will complete her master’s degree in history this May and is presently applying to doctoral programs in history. “This is the second CUNY Veteran Services Professional Development Conference I’ve attended since I began working for the student veteran center at CSI,” Ann says. “Both were very informative; and I witnessed the information shared at the earlier conference being implemented throughout CUNY. This gives me confidence that the information acquired today will also transform veteran services throughout CUNY for the better.” Data shared by representatives of the U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau confirmed that women tend to not use the benefits they are entitled to through their service. This fact, not a surprise to Ann. “I used my G.I. Bill to complete my bachelor’s degree at a state college and what was remaining to continue on for a master’s. At CSI, I’ve met few other female veterans. I hope that this trend becomes a thing of the past and that CUNY makes an effort to assure female veterans that they have a place in one of its many institutions. My having used my benefits shouldn’t be the exception, but rather the standard.” Notably, the University is again included in Military Advanced Education’s annual “Guide to America’s Top Military-Friendly Colleges & Universities.”

From Left to Right: Lt. Col. Daniel E. Harris, 369th Special Troops Battalion Commander, NY Army National Guard; Vice Chancellor Frank D. Sanchez; Stephen Clark, Central Office, Veterans Affairs; CPT Juan C. Bravo, NY Army National Guard

Student-Veteran
Ann Little
Commemorating Black History Month: Haiti Two Years Later

In February, Black History Month was commemorated with scores of events held across CUNY campuses. Campus calendars-of-events encouraged CUNY students, faculty, staff, distinguished guests and the public to enjoy a number of special exhibitions, lectures, films and performances—a diverse array of activities designed to educate and showcase culture and the arts, as well as promote respect, diversity, critical thinking and civic engagement. The report below is from the Haitian Club at Hostos Community College:

Two years after the devastating earthquake that killed over 200,000 Haitian citizens, Hostos Community College held an evening forum on February 23rd to discuss the status of the island country. The Office of Student Activities worked with the campus’ Haitian Club to bring in Pastor Jean Harry, who provided an assessment based on his visits to Haiti over the past two years. Participants were updated about the health of the citizens, rebuilding of housing and facilities, repairing of the roads and infrastructure plus other concerns. Not surprisingly, there is still much to be done. Pastor Harry spoke of Haiti’s lack of preparation for this type of disaster in comparison to other countries such as Cuba and the United States. He pointed out that the magnitude of the tragedy could have been reduced if the country had enforced stricter building codes and if the population had received training in the courses of action to follow when faced with natural disasters. Interestingly, Pastor Harry is a CUNY alumni and former Student Government Vice President and Haitian Club President (Medgar Evers College).

CUNYAC 47th Annual Tip-Off Press Luncheon Held for Basketball Championships
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghg7g_E__xQ

CUNYAC Enjoys Winter Wonders With 7 All-Americans And Two Teams With Top Ten National Championship Finishes

By Gregg Cohen

The student-athletes of the City University of New York Athletic Conference just put the finishing touches on a wonderful winter season with unprecedented accolades piling up for both individuals and teams over the last month since the CUNYAC Champions were crowned.

Two teams placed in the top ten nationally, as the College of Staten Island Men’s swimmers took 10th place (a Conference record) in the NCAA Championships, just two weeks after its Men’s Basketball team played in the NCAA Round of 16 for the first time in CSI history. Not to be outdone, the Bronx Community College Men’s Basketball team won its region tournament for the first time and finished fourth in the NJCAA National Tournament, a first on the hardwood. "Congratulations to all of our fabulous student-athletes on making this winter season one of the most successful ones yet," said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank D. Sanchez. "We continue to be amazed by their dedication and success and are even happier to know they are continuing to strive for more." Individually, seven student-athletes were named All-Americans for their remarkable contributions in their sport and combined with the four honorees from the fall 2011 sports, the Conference is in prime position for an amazing spring championship season.

Follow at www.cunyathletics.com
CUNY LEADS Celebrates!

CUNY LEADS lives! NYS committed funding for this model program in CUNY’s 2012-2013 budget. As a celebration and an opportunity to officially thank all those who have been involved with the program, a reception was held on May 1st at Baruch College. Vice Chancellor Frank D. Sanchez celebrated with the LEADS community including all of those who have supported and worked with the program since its inception in 2007.

CUNY LEADS (Linking Employment, Academics and Disability Services) is a unique academic and career program for students with disabilities at CUNY. With a LEADS counselor on each campus, they serve over 2000 students who are preparing for employment. We are proud and grateful that students with disabilities at CUNY can look forward to being a part of the LEADS community as we move forward.

Professional Development…

NASPA Region II Pre-Conference
“Breaking New Ground”: For New Professionals, Graduate Students and NUFP Fellows!
Buffalo, New York
June 10, 2012
Info & Registration
http://www.naspa.org/regions/regionii/regconference2012.cfm

2012 NASPA Region II Conference - "Breaking New Ground"
Jun 10, 2012 10:00 am – Jun 12, 2012 12:45 pm
Buffalo, New York
Info & Registration

NASPA Region II
Mid-Manager’s Institute
At Montclair State University
June 18th – 22nd, 2012
Montclair, New Jersey
Info & Registration
http://www.naspa.org/regions/regionii/mmi.cfm

More at www.cuny.edu/professionaldevelopment

We Want to Hear from You!
Email your news, comments and questions to Lenora Wade at:
dosatoday@mail.cuny.edu