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

“The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been.”
—Henry A. Kissinger

I have heard many descriptions about how CUNY has evolved over the last 15 years. Some talk about the “resurgence” CUNY is undergoing. Others call it a “resurrection.” I have even heard some say CUNY is experiencing “a second renaissance.” Whichever the description, virtually everyone who has a familiarity with CUNY’s history believes the quality of education and the overall collegiate experience is vastly superior to what it was a decade and a half ago. While I believe there are many reasons for this systemic and fundamental turnaround, it is clear CUNY’s leadership through Chancellor Goldstein has been the primary catalyst for these advancements. Due to my own observations, interactions and experiences with Chancellor Goldstein, I would like to make the following brief comments about his leadership and its transformative qualities for students at CUNY.

I believe the above quote by Henry Kissinger captures the essence of Chancellor Goldstein’s leadership. He has been able “to get his people,” whether the members of the Chancellery, campus presidents or the Board of Trustees, to envision something bigger than what we once knew. Speaking as a relatively new Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, I can say that the Chancellor has provided consistent, stable and certain leadership while at the same time creating an encouraging environment—one where new ideas, innovation and responsible action are welcomed. I am also struck by the frequency in which the Chancellor and other executives speak about support for and the success of students. I am certain this culture of leadership is the direct result of Chancellor Goldstein’s expectations and standards for ensuring the mission of CUNY and its service to New York City.

Chancellor Goldstein cares deeply about the students and their success. Without an unwavering commitment to students at his core, the Chancellor would not have been able to advance the University to its current position of leadership within the national higher education arena. Whether influenced by his upbringing in New York City, years as a CCNY student, or time as a faculty member and college administrator, it is clear that Chancellor Goldstein has kept students’ interests as a centerpiece of his work. A mentor once told me, “Whenever you have a tough decision to make, think ‘students first’ and then decide.” Time and again, Chancellor Goldstein has put students first by establishing a vision which encapsulates the highest expectations and core principles aimed at supporting student success and the learning enterprise.

The Chancellor has always desired a stronger and more relevant education for CUNY students. Whether this is due to his vision, an authentic commitment to students or a desire to ensure the integrity of the University, Chancellor Goldstein has been a catalytic champion for CUNY, its students and its future. In my observations, I have witnessed a deeply-driven purpose and steadfast spirit to improve educational opportunity for students at CUNY. I am thankful to have been a part of this new era, and I look forward to the generations of students who will benefit from Chancellor Goldstein’s work.

All my best,

Frank
Announcements

On April 12 CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein announced he would step down as Chancellor of the University in the summer. He is the first CUNY graduate (City College of New York) to lead the University.

http://www1.cuny.edu/mu/chancellor/2013/04/19/chancellor-goldstein-to-step-down-this-summer/

The City College of New York officially renamed its division of social sciences the Colin L. Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. A graduate of City College, former General Powell was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff before becoming Secretary of State.


The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank D. Sanchez has moved to 205 E. 42nd Street effective April 5, 2013 along with other Central Office departments. University Director of Student Advocacy, Roberta Nord is also located at the new address. Other Central Office of Student Affairs (COSA) personnel relocations include the Office of SEEK/CD & Special Programs with Dean Cheryl Williams and Dr. Shelley Ast; and Lenora Wade, Communications Assistant to 555 W. 57th Street, suite 1325.

Lynette Cook-Francis has been appointed Vice President for Student Affairs at the John Jay College for Criminal Justice effective March 4, 2013.

In February, Erin Andrews joined the Office of Special Programs (OSP), Central Office of Student Affairs (COSA) as an Assessment Specialist. Erin holds a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from The George Washington University and a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology from Drexel University.

Policy Update

Three key Pathways documents were disseminated in May including:

- Student Pathways Rights and Responsibilities
- Pathways Student University Appeals Process
- Student Appeals Form

The documents can be found on the central office Pathways website at http://www.cuny.edu/academics/initiatives/pathways/about/rightsandresponsibilities.html.

CUNY International Students’ “Meet and Greet” Connects Students From Across the Campuses

On February 15, the Office of International Student and Scholar Services in the Central Office of Student Affairs (COSA) launched a “Meet and Greet” event for CUNY international students including fall 2012 and spring 2013 enrollees. The structured outreach and welcome event took place in the Richard Harris Terrace at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) and was co-sponsored with BMCC’s Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

The program provided a unique, focused opportunity to engage and energize students at the start of their campus experience and help them take advantage of the support services and resources available at CUNY. Session panelists discussed academic expectations and more—all against the backdrop of staying mindful of immigration protocols to maintain their international student immigration status. One session, “Overcoming Challenges: International Students Speak,” offered insights from current students who pointed to the hurdles they had overcome to pursue their studies. Specific suggestions for new students included: to get involved in student organizations (that can serve as support systems and a means for advocacy); volunteer for different non-profit organizations; and maintain a high GPA.

“It’s very important information,” commented Baruch freshman Sebastian Kelder, who hails from the Netherlands. “It’s good to know where to go to for help, and to meet other students like myself. I’m very interested in the cross-University networking.” Kingsborough student, Cheyenne Auguste and other participants agreed, recalling the isolation some experience in a city the size of New York. “I’m fortunate that I do have family from St. Lucia here; but being here today with other students like me really helps too,” said Cheyenne.

In the exit survey, students confirmed that the event was rich in content and very informative, recommending that it continue as an annual CUNY-wide event. “The offices for international student services across CUNY are tasked with seeing that these students remain in status and that critical information is made available to them,” remarked Ruth Kamona, CUNY Director for International Student and Scholar Services. “Our mission and outreach to them is critical to their success.”
CUNY Leaders On Leadership:
A Talk with Senior Vice Chancellor and Board Secretary, Jay Hershenson

Students from the Malave Leadership Academy (MLA) and the CUNY Council for Students with Disabilities (CCSD) enjoyed a unique opportunity and talk on Friday March 1st at John Jay College. Senior Vice Chancellor and Secretary of the Board Jay Hershenson greeted the group as the inaugural speaker in a proposed series of lectures titled “CUNY Leaders On Leadership.” The planned talks with students seek to engage and educate the next generation of leaders from among the student body, and expose them to lessons learned and the career experiences of exemplary University professionals.

Following a networking lunch, students were treated to highlights of SVC Hershenson’s career experiences, including the mentoring he provided to the late former Vice Chancellor Ernesto Malave, and his personal philosophy of leadership that stresses the importance of:

- expressing gratitude and appreciation by openly recognizing the contributions of others in your collaborations;
- possessing humility (also considered a political asset);
- stepping back at times and letting someone else be the first to voice your ideas, remembering it may help gain support and buy-in of your ideas if others first initiate the topic; and
- asking others you respect for advice, and remembering sometimes to take advice, another good way to get idea buy-in.

SVC Hershenson urged students to “step up and provide your A-game,” advising them that the three keys to success in advocacy and leadership are “Persistence, Persistence and Persistence.”

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank Sanchez also provided remarks earlier in the program. He shared his resolve to help students develop their skills and abilities and to expose them to ways of thinking differently about the world and its possibilities. Other senior staff members in attendance from the Central Office of Student Affairs (COSA) included University Assistant Dean Chris Rosa and MLA Director Kevin Tucker as well as MLA staff and students from the CCSD.

JP Villa, Brooklyn College

“I thoroughly enjoyed the luncheon talk with Senior Vice Chancellor Hershenson who so graciously shared his experience in leadership. I was touched to the core when he talked about how many of us are diamonds in the rough. This spoke to me because of the process in which a diamond is made, with high pressure and care until the diamond is formed.”

Dorothy Williams Wallen, Lehman College

“I was deeply inspired by Senior Vice Chancellor Hershenson’s speech on leadership. He talked about how he used a simple and direct line of communication to achieve a goal. Senior Vice Chancellor Hershenson challenged what seemed to be a difficult situation which created social change for the students. This style of leadership is one that I would like to emulate as I continue to develop my leadership skills.”
CUNY Project REACH Celebrates One-Year Anniversary
Holds Second Annual Strategic Advisory Meeting

In January, Project REACH (Resources and Education on Autism as CUNY’s Hallmark), an initiative of the Central Office of Student Affairs (COSA), hit a very important milestone in the project’s progress. Project REACH celebrated its one-year anniversary by holding a second annual Strategic Advisory Meeting in February. The three-hour meeting gathered professionals in the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) community from all around New York to review work done, talk about plans going forward and get valuable feedback into issues important to ASD students in higher education. With the objective to make year two even better, invitations were extended to key stakeholders involved with the project and with students on the spectrum.

Dr. Lisa Pollich, REACH’s Project Director, provided opening greetings at the gathering. University Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Chris Rosa explained that the number of students with autism in higher education is rapidly increasing, referring to Project REACH as an “agent of institutional and cultural change.” Dr. Shirlee Taylor, Executive Director of the FAR Fund (which provides funding for the project), shared information about autism in society. Dr. Pollich then provided additional information about the history of Project REACH and an update on what the project had accomplished in the past year—creation of a newsletter and website, conference presentations, distribution of grant money to campuses and meetings with students—and what the project plans to do in the future. The importance of student outreach, educational training for the campus community and collaboration across disciplines was also emphasized.

Later, the recipients of Project REACH mini-grant funding presented their campus projects and discussed the work’s impact on students with ASD. Many aspects of the projects include student orientation, transition to college, community outreach, peer mentoring, academic screening, student engagement, campus awareness, curriculum redevelopment, advisement and counseling, self-advocacy skills-building, extracurricular activities and workshops.

Participants were in attendance from the CUNY colleges of Hunter, Brooklyn and Baruch and the College of Staten Island; Queensborough Community College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Kingsborough Community College; CUNY LEADS, the CUNY School of Professional Studies, CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD), Academic Affairs, Office of the Dean of Health and Human Services as well as outside organizations including Fordham University, New York City Department of Education, Asperger Syndrome High Functioning Autism Association, Spectrum Services and Asperger Syndrome Training Employment Partnership.

The meeting reinvigorated REACH’s commitment to helping students on the spectrum get the most out of their college experience and project administrators expressed great appreciation to all engaged. A special thanks was extended to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank Sanchez and University Dean for Health and Human Services, William Ebenstein for their guidance and support and also to the FAR Fund for funding the initiative. For more information about Project REACH, visit the website at www.cuny.edu/projectREACH.

CUNYAC Launches StudentsFirst Rewards Program
Students can earn free tuition for a year!
Malave Leadership Academy Students Participate in the 42nd Annual Conference of the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators

Students from the Malave Leadership Academy (MLA) travelled to Albany, New York in February to participate in the 42nd Annual Conference of the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators.

At the conference, students had the opportunity to interact with elected officials and other important community stakeholders, participating in a number of workshops covering issues confronting New York State. In a meeting with Nicole Burckard, the New York State Senate Committee Director for Higher Education, students learned about the state budget process and how the higher education budget is formulated. Nicole also discussed her own career trajectory that involved work for both political parties. Following the meeting, students participated in a tour of the capitol building and learned the history behind its recent renovations.

Another trip highlight was the annual CUNY luncheon where New York City College of Technology (NYCCT) student Patricia Persaud (a student in the Malave Leadership Academy’s CUNY Corps program) was honored for her exemplary service during Superstorm Sandy. Through MLA, Patricia participated in the CUNY HELPS initiative in Far Rockaway and collaborated with the staff of Assemblyman Felix Ortiz to canvass Red Hook residents. Continuing her work, Patricia also volunteered at an emergency evacuation shelter and helped with New York City park clean-ups. Also honored at the luncheon was former Malave participant and current CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD) member Marybeth Melendez, who was lauded for her tireless work organizing a post-Sandy food distribution center on Staten Island.
Eighteen students from across CUNY campuses attended an activist boot camp on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at the Brooklyn College Women’s Center. The purpose of the boot camp, co-hosted with Betty Yu from The Center for Media Justice, was to teach students the different techniques used to gain traction in advocacy work for their communities.

Students spent the Saturday learning about many areas involved in advocacy including how to: identify problems in their communities; develop an understanding of the issues; analyze the bigger picture and the power structures at work; and develop campaign strategies including a plan for running and winning a campaign. Working in small groups, students were told to identify a problematic issue in their community and to formulate a campaign to advocate for change. Students remarked that the mock campaign helped them to understand the different strategies better and how to work with and compromise with others. “I understand how to work with others, and the activity put my skills to the test,” shared one student. Another stated that “Being specific is vital. Changes, even if small, or not completely what you want, are possible.” At its conclusion, the workshop participants had learned important lessons noting that in order to make big changes one can target smaller issues first; and that by building a solid foundation first, one is better positioned to achieve a bigger impact.
The 20th Annual Vice Chancellor’s Leadership in Excellence Awards was held on May 10 at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Richard Harris Terrace. The awards are presented to two students who are selected by the chief student affairs officers on each CUNY campus. Students receiving a Vice Chancellor’s Excellence in Leadership Award have earned a grade point average of 3.0 or better and have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities in both academic and co-curricular activities. The Vice Chancellor’s Student of the Year Award was presented to Ms. Mehak Kapoor of John Jay College of Criminal Justice; and the Solomon Awards (honoring students who have overcome extraordinary obstacles and persevered to achieve academic success) were presented to Jamell Henderson from Brooklyn College and Khalifa Stafford from Hunter College. Students from the Malave Leadership Academy were also recognized. Over the past year, these students have developed their leadership skills and served their campuses, communities and the University through participation in community service and civic engagement activities.

The Vice Chancellor’s Excellence in Leadership Awards Ceremony Held

CUNYAC Dinner Highlights Awards for CUNY’s Best Student-Athletes

The 27th Annual Michael Steuerman Scholar-Athlete Awards Dinner was held at Queens College on Thursday May 16. CUNY’s outstanding student-athletes, coaches, administrators and supporters were on hand to honor four scholar-athletes and 47 others with honorable mentions. Students receiving awards included: Paul Dedewo of The City College of New York for Men’s Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field; Alyssa Lubrino of Baruch College for Women’s Swimming and Diving; Anton Wesener of the Borough of Manhattan Community College for Men’s Soccer; and Vlasta Safarova of Kingsborough Community College for Women's Volleyball.

For more go to:
The 2013 Emerging Leaders Conference was held at Baruch College in February with a variety of workshops aimed at inspiring leadership and cultivating leadership traits. Since more and more people are connecting through technology and social media, conference organizers set the conference theme on the importance of communication as key to becoming student leaders in the global community.

The day began with a motivating speech from the president and founder of the Washington Consulting Group, Reverend Dr. Jamie Washington. Later, the 280 conference participants dispersed to take part in workshops that included an examination of the impact of social media; how to find your voice as a leader and team builder; and the work of the CUNY Women’s Centers to create a model of collaboration and teamwork in the college community. 35 volunteers and members of the 2013 Emerging Leaders Conference planning team helped to make the conference a success, with the support of the CUNY Council of Student Life Directors (CCSLD), the Malave Leadership Academy (MLA) and the CUNY Central Office of Student Affairs (COSA).

From the CUNY Newswire:
Four CCNY Graduating Seniors Awarded Salk Scholarships

Alana Lewis, Susanna Nguy, Ivan Santiago and Emma Schatoff, members of The City College of New York Class of 2013, have been selected to receive the 2013 Jonas E. Salk Scholarship awarded by The City University of New York. The winning students received an $8,000 scholarship stipend at a ceremony on May 16 at Baruch College. The Jonas E. Salk Scholarships were created by New York City in 1955 to honor Dr. Salk, a member of the CCNY Class of 1934, who earlier that year developed the first vaccine against polio. CUNY awards the scholarships annually to graduates of CUNY senior colleges who have demonstrated sound character, outstanding scholarship and the promise of significant contributions to medical research. Read more about it at: http://www1.cuny.edu/mu/forum/2013/05/15/four-ccny-graduating-seniors-awarded-salk-scholarships/

The City University of New York #1 with Largest Increase in Blood Center Donations

On May 2, 2013 at a breakfast ceremony, the New York Blood Center honored city agencies for their high participation in the blood donor program. First-place honors were awarded to the City University of New York as the New York City Employee Blood Program agency with the largest increase in donations over the prior year; and the University was second to the New York City Police Department as the agency with the most total donations.