Dear CUNY Student Affairs Staff and Friends:

American columnist and author Bill Vaughn once said, “An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the Old Year leaves.” While the New Year will often spark reflection on the last 365 days, I cannot help but share a spirit of forward thinking, optimism and advancement as we set off into 2012.

Concluding my first year at CUNY this January, I am reminded of the tremendous honor and pride we have to serve this exceptional university. At no other place in the country can multiple campuses come together in a global epicenter and, in an integrated fashion, ensure extraordinary access and opportunity for students in becoming college graduates. Indeed, the work in Student Affairs is all about transforming lives….and we do it better than any other university system.

I gained an even greater appreciation of CUNY while meeting with the President of the Ford Foundation this January. Our conversation left me imagining how we create a vision that is both bold and limitless, while bringing together the talent and strength of our collective staffs. Over the next six months, the Student Affairs strategic plan will continue to unfold, and I am more confident than ever that exceptional service and engagement for students will emerge as a result.

This coming year, among many other initiatives, we will have a laser focus on improving the educational experiences for our students. For instance, COSA will be helping to lead the Chancellor’s Veterans’ Taskforce charged with examining services for men and women from our armed forces. We will be partnering with John Gardener, a national expert on the first-year experience, to guide us in identifying best practices for student success, and we will work with city leaders to enhance art and theater opportunities for all of our students. Furthermore, we will examine and recommend improvements with early alert and advising systems for our students. Further still, we will work hand-in-hand with the University Student Senate to create an online clearinghouse where all students can access local, state and national scholarships.

Clearly, 2012 presents our students and our campuses with many exciting opportunities. I wish each of you well this coming year and much student success.

Yours in education,

Frank

Frank D. Sanchez, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
City University of New York
Policy Updates

Board Resolution on Child-Care Services

At the November 28th meeting of the Board of Trustees, a resolution was adopted concerning child-care services and an expansion of services. While affirming that the primary purpose of each child-care center operating on a CUNY campus is to provide services to the dependent children of registered, matriculated college students, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution that would allow colleges to submit proposals to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs to expand child-care services to children of the college's non-matriculated part-time students, as well as, for a fee, to the children of the college's faculty and staff and community members (to the extent space and funding permit). Guidelines regulating the expansion will be submitted by the Vice Chancellor's Office.

Bylaws Article XV Revisions Adopted

At its November 28th meeting, the Board of Trustees approved revisions to bring the student conduct and student organization sections of Article XV into compliance with University practice and applicable law, and to clarify and address issues that have arisen concerning the University’s student disciplinary procedures: http://policy.cuny.edu/toc/btb/

For more, access www.cuny.edu/studentpolicies

From the CUNY.edu Newswire: Citizen CUNY Portal Now Offers Even More Services

To welcome the largest number of students ever to enroll at The City University of New York last fall, the University enhanced its online portal to student services, which is now called “Citizen CUNY, Your Portal to Service.” The Citizen CUNY portal connects students with University services, including expanded online library and database offerings to enrich learning and research; online access to grades and transcripts; services for veterans; financial aid; savings on textbooks; campus-based child care; help with citizenship; job-hunting assistance; and more. At the same time, the new portal’s content reflects the historic importance of public service to CUNY, and reaffirms the importance of student civic engagement today. In the realm of civic responsibilities, the portal helps connect students with such activities as registering to vote, gaining leadership skills through civic engagement, and tapping into the mayor’s dynamic database of volunteer opportunities. It is an easy-to-use pathway to countless outlets for community service. Students will find it easier to find opportunities for community service via a featured link to the city’s website for volunteers, www.nyc.gov/service. Go to cunyportal.cuny.edu to find out more about Citizen CUNY.

IBM Donates 45 Computer Centers to Child-Care Centers

At the beginning of the fall 2011 semester, in response to a proposal developed by Kirstin Swanson, Director of Development at Kingsborough and Heather Brown, Director of the child care-center, IBM donated 45 Young Explorer computer centers to the CUNY child care centers. A grant to support installation and training was included in the donation. The KidSmart Early Learning Program from IBM, which includes the Young Explorer computer centers equipped with quality software, will help children at CUNY child-care centers to learn and explore concepts in math, science and language. The computer centers can also help children learn important socialization skills such as how to work together and share thereby reinforcing the educational and developmental goals of the CUNY child-care centers. By observing the children’s interactions with Young Explorer computers in the classroom and using the interactive Guide to Learning and Technology on the KidSmart website, the teachers at CUNY child-care centers will develop a deeper understanding of the integration of technology into the early learning environment, and student parents will have a better understanding of how to use the computer to support and encourage early learning.

Plans are in development for an event to recognize this significant contribution by IBM to the CUNY child-care centers.
**CUNYLEADS Advances Workforce 1 in New York City**

Barbara Bookman excels at making connections. As CUNY LEADS Director of Program Relations and Training, she works diligently with campus offices to make the connections to employment for students with disabilities. Now Barbara’s outstanding networking has resulted in a great partnership with Workforce 1 – New York City and New York State-funded one-stop employment centers.

Workforce 1 conveyed to Barbara that they had been “looking for a way in” to CUNY to reach students with disabilities—but were stumped about how to reach 24 different campuses with 24 distinct orientations towards the one-stops. Barbara expertly defined CUNY LEADS as a centrally-coordinated point of entry for the employment resource and described how she will facilitate campus CUNY LEADS counselors working closely with Workforce 1 staff to link students with disabilities to employment opportunities. Weekly job blasts are now sent to the campus counselors so they can identify and refer job candidates for interviews. Additionally, Workforce 1 asked Barbara to be a regular blogger on disability employment issues on their high-traffic website--great exposure for CUNY LEADS and the University.

Her latest blog entries can be found the second Tuesday of every month at [http://nycworkforce1.org](http://nycworkforce1.org). CUNY students with disabilities stand to benefit greatly from Barbara’s efforts and that of the entire CUNY LEADS team: University Assistant Dean Chris Rosa, Project Director Roberta Adelman and Data Manager Tom Salerni.

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**Financial Literacy Program Announced for SEEK/CD Students Via Operation HOPE**

Across CUNY campuses, there is consensus on the need to address financial literacy education for students. Although many campus departments and programs provide information and offer instruction via seminars, workshops and student orientations, supplementing instruction and guidance for students continues to be a top priority for the University. Enter Operation HOPE.

A November 2nd signing ceremony between Operation HOPE and the Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK and College Discovery programs introduced a new partnership to provide financial literacy education to over 12,000 SEEK and CD students—students who will enjoy a specialized curriculum designed to help them take control of their financial futures.

At the Central Office ceremony, Associate Dean for Special Programs, Cheryl Williams, expressed her appreciation to Operation HOPE representatives including Mary Hagerty, the Global Chief of Financial Literacy and First Senior Vice President. Also in attendance and applauding the collaboration were General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, Rick Schaffer and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank Sanchez. Vice Chancellor Sanchez remarked on the University’s commitment to partner with organizations on financial literacy education and his desire to enhance communications and utilize new media to reach students about this important topic. Educating students in the many forms of financial literacy—from credit and debt management and paying for college to budgeting and money management—is critical today since too often it is a sudden family crisis and not academic failure that causes a student to drop out of school. “Operation HOPE will help our students receive guidance and coaching, helping them to better plan for and attain prosperous financial futures,” said VC Sanchez to the audience that included SEEK/CD students.

Added Senior VP Hagerty, “It takes time to help students discover their financial profile and personality…to understand how they feel about money and the language of money. Operation HOPE is about empowerment and empowering families and students.” HOPE’s curriculum is tailored to incoming students with elements that also address the continuing student experience. The program began in November on two CUNY campuses.

**About Operation HOPE**

Operation HOPE is a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to financial literacy and economic empowerment with a mission to expand economic opportunity in underserved communities. Today HOPE has reached over 1.5 million individuals across the globe.
**Announcements**

**Cheryl Williams, Associate Dean for Special Programs,** was interviewed about the SEEK and CD programs by Dr. Roscoe Brown on his CUNY TV show, African American Legends. You can view the show, which aired in November, at [http://cunytv/show/africanamericanlegends/PR2000374](http://cunytv/show/africanamericanlegends/PR2000374).

**Director Brian Mitra,** of Kingsborough Community College, was awarded the 2011 Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional Award for Region II by NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators). The selection positions Brian as a candidate for the national award.

**The New York Hospital Queens Blood Donor Center** presented [York College](http://www.york.cuny.edu/) with the Gold Caring Heart Award for achieving 101-250 blood donors for 2011.

**Wilfred Cotto,** CUNY Director of Veterans Services, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Veterans Program Administrators (NAVPA) for 2012.

**Kingsborough College Discovery student Andre Doeman** was selected to be a NUFP (NASPA Undergraduate Fellowship Program) fellow. His mentor for the fellowship is **Dean Paulette Dalpes.** Along with developing his leadership skills, the fellowship grants Andre attendance at the national conference and the opportunity to network with students and administrators.

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**Professional Development Resources Website Launched**

This fall, the CUNY Division of Student Affairs launched a “Professional Development Resources” website to assist campuses. The website catalogs books and publications, workshops and events, national organizations and training and development opportunities that are available to campus student affairs professionals. The website can be accessed at [www.cuny.edu/professionaldevelopment](http://www.cuny.edu/professionaldevelopment) or click on the Current Students tab on the CUNY website, and the Division of Student Affairs link listed under Top Links.

Professional development and promoting best practices that directly affect the welfare and success of students remain primary goals of the Division. Toward that end, COSA directors continually review and enhance the materials on the site to assist student affairs professionals in providing the most effective student services—work that is evidence-based and shared among leaders in the field. Please contact Lenora Wade at dosatoday@mail.cuny.edu with any feedback concerning this and other Division of Student Affairs websites.

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**A Retirement Recognition: Safiya Bandele**

After 34 years of dedicated service, Professor Safiya Bandele retires from Medgar Evers College. Safiya served as Director of the Center for Women’s Development for the past 30 years. Her responsibilities included supervision of the Center’s social workers, advocates, administrative assistants, interns and volunteers. The Center assists students in multiple areas including academic advisement, rape crisis counseling, domestic violence 101, sexual harassment, trainer for trainers, conflict mediation and resolution, bereavement counseling, multicultural counseling, women’s health group facilitation, and human sexuality.

Over her 34-year tenure at the college, Professor Bandele’s teaching experience at Medgar Evers included English Composition, Women’s Studies, Gender Specific Freshmen Experience Seminar and Women’s Health and Wellness. Highlights of her significant accomplishments include serving on the City-Wide Task Force on Girls and Young Women; membership on the City-Wide Task Force on Violence in the Family; contributing editor of "Behind Closed Doors: Family Violence in New York City;" and hosting a monthly radio program on WBAI F.M. She has received many awards including from the Black Veterans for Social Justice, the National Association of Minority Political Women, the International Black Women’s Congress as well as the STARS Award from the Sojourner Truth Adolescent Rites Society. The Division of Student Affairs congratulates Safiya on her retirement!

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**CUNYAC Launches Phone App Get Tickets, Latest News Faster**

The CUNY Athletic Conference, in conjunction with Sidearm Sports, has just launched a mobile phone application for Android phones in a continual effort to “Go Green.” The app is easily downloaded on the Android market by simply entering CUNY Athletic Conference in the search box, and the best part is that it is free! “The droid app gives fans the ability to connect with CUNYAC immediately and allows viewers to check scores, schedules, and even sport-specific photos all without leaving their phone,” said CUNYAC Assistant Director of Championships, Maya Johnson, who spearheaded the effort from the Conference office. “It’s a universal one-stop shop, a CUNYAC website on-the-go. It’s our venture into the new media market.” Access [CUNYAthletics.com](http://CUNYAthletics.com) for the latest developments on this venture.
Dear Friends,

In October of 2011, the members of the University Student Senate (USS) gave me the honor and privilege of representing them as the USS Chairperson and student member for the CUNY Board of Trustees. Our team has hit the ground running since we took office in November. We have been meeting with students, faculty, and administrators to map out a course of effective student action.

Developing and maintaining a strong partnership with the Central Office of Student Affairs is central to our success on behalf of students. Toward that end, we appreciate the support extended to us by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank Sanchez, to help facilitate progress towards our goals. Below are just a few of the many great initiatives we are planning for the year.

One of our primary goals this year will revolve around promoting civic engagement. USS has always been known to be a model of student leadership throughout CUNY. We will be at the forefront of conversations concerning budget cuts and tuition, hosting higher education forums with local legislators, and organizing a strong voter registration campaign. It is CUNY students who will be the leading participants in our campaign to preserve the quality and affordability of this great University.

Secondly, the USS Scholarship Committee will be working diligently to see that USS gives out a record amount of scholarships this year. It is important that we reward students who have showcased academic excellence and have displayed honorable leadership. We will also be helping students who are struggling to cope with the recent tuition hikes. We plan to lend assistance to half a dozen students from every campus.

Finally, financial literacy is another important theme in our agenda. As we did during this past year, USS will be taking an active role in helping our students become financially literate. Given the instability of our economic climate, we find it important that our students become fluent in the language of economic security.

Our agenda is not limited to these issues. This is just a brief account of the great work furnished by delegates at USS. Our true mission is to reach out to ALL the students in CUNY and have them tell us where we should aim our focus. So friends, please reach out to me and other members of USS as we strive to accomplish our common aspirations.

I can be reached at the campus USS office.

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### 2011-2012 University Student Senate Election Results

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<tr>
<th>Chairperson:</th>
<th>Kafui Kouakou (Brooklyn College)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs:</td>
<td>Antonio Alfonso (Baruch College)</td>
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<td>Vice Chair of Fiscal Affairs:</td>
<td>Dmitriy Bykovskiy (College of Staten Island)</td>
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<td>Vice Chair of Graduate Student Affairs:</td>
<td>Jeffrey Aikens (John Jay College)</td>
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<td>Vice Chair of Senior College Affairs:</td>
<td>Muhammad Ashad (City College)</td>
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<td>Vice Chair of Community College Affairs:</td>
<td>Sandra May Flowers (Hostos Community College)</td>
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<td>Vice Chair of Evening/PT Affairs:</td>
<td>Zeeshan Saroya (New York City College of Technology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair of Disabled Student Affairs:</td>
<td>Liliete Lopez (Queens College)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair of International Student Affairs:</td>
<td>(Vacant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VC of Technology Affairs:</td>
<td>Mohammed Samra (LaGuardia Community College)</td>
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Campus Centers Promote a Healthy CUNY

College of Staten Island
Get Fit!  Event

CSI Health and Wellness staff and Peer Educators collaborated with the CSI Nursing Department and CSI Physical Therapy students to host the very successful “CSI GET FIT” event in September. The event engaged students in health assessments and first steps to making healthy changes and educated them about the campus resources available to support their personal and academic goals.

All 135 students completed a “Fitness Report Card.” Seventy-five students opted to complete all twelve fitness evaluations including assessment and education on nutrition, smoking cessation, resting heart rate, blood pressure, weight and Body Mass Index (BMI). Physical therapy students provided hands-on screenings using the Wii Fit as well as other activities to assess balance and grip strength. Some students found that they have high blood pressure and learned the next steps to take.

Evaluation and feedback was very positive. Forty-two students “Strongly Agreed” that the event increased knowledge of a specific health topic. Thirty-three students “Agreed” with this statement. Forty-six students “Strongly Agreed” that they had identified behavior(s) they would like to change/add to improve their health and wellness. Twenty-eight students “Agreed” with this statement and one student indicated “Disagree.” All students indicated that what they learned will assist them in improving health, and all indicated the event met their expectations. Afterwards, sixteen students signed up for the health center’s ten week “Take it Off” Healthy Eating nutrition program. Funding for the program was provided by the Campus Activities Board, and students received either a CSI “Get Fit” t-shirt or a water bottle at the end of the event.

Student-Held Health Education Coordinator Position a Plus for Campus Wellness Center

Forging connections to students has always been a priority at the Graduate Center’s Wellness Center and Student Health Services. Then about two and a half years ago the school developed the student-held Graduate B fellowship position—a creative way to more effectively promote wellness by having a current student provide information on health and health-related issues. Bringing special insight and the perspective of an “insider” to the table, the student health-educator works in collaboration with the Nurse Practitioner/Director and the Administrative Coordinator to assess the health education needs of the Grad Center student body and helps plan accordingly. Specific duties include planning, organizing, and managing wellness workshops and promotion events; writing health-care news items for the Health Services website or student newspaper; and updating and maintaining a library of health promotion materials at the Wellness Center. The student’s area of study need not be in the Health Sciences, but he or she must have a knowledge of health and wellness conditions, an ability to research and organize information, a familiarity with public health needs and trends, plus program planning, writing and education skills. One resultant outcome has been a symbiotic relationship between students and health service staff, reports Adraenne Bowe, Director of Student Health Services at the Graduate Center.

Self-Defense and Self-Improvement Trainings at Lehman

Approximately 15-20 students trained weekly in preparation for a test to receive their white belts in Tae Kwon Do. The trainings were led by internationally renowned Grandmaster BM Kim (pictured). Besides mastering basic self-defense techniques, students learn self-confidence, respect, and self-discipline. Students tested in December for their white belts at BM Kim’s White Plains school, where they each received a uniform and white belt, plus a certificate and trophy.
Praise for the 6th Annual CUNY Black Male Initiative (BMI) Conference

“I find the (campus) services very helpful, and I don’t hesitate to make use of them. Faculty and staff tell me to keep coming—and to tell others what is available.”—Delroy Peters, sophomore, KBCC

“I work two jobs. There have always been high expectations for me in my family. But I was also raised not to ask for help. BMI offers hope for the things we need. I expect education will provide me with the intellect to deal with life better—and not just to get a job.”—Alexis Adorno, sophomore, Lehman College, Law School aspirant

“I’m here to get information and bring it back to my 23-year old brother who could not be here. My plans are to be a teacher.”—Nakaiya Nicholas, Brooklyn College graduate

“The conference is great. I can relate to everything said. We’re here because of the pathway program for Science, Math and Engineering at City College.”—John Colby Mathis and Chris Johnson, High School students

“I make it my business to know what BMI is doing, what is being rolled out. My learning more about initiatives like this can assist our principals and help provide information about resources and other programs citywide. BMI serves to help raise the bar in our efforts to raise awareness and help teachers in their accountability and measurements.”—Tracy Smith, Middle School Administrator and Achievement Coach, Department of Education, Network 108, Cluster 1.

“Advisement and consistency is key. In my experience, dedicated follow-up with students leads to success stories that I very much enjoy sharing.”—Dr. Warren Soare, Academic College Discovery, QBCC

6th Annual BMI Conference Held
October 7th 2011 at Hunter College

BMM Director, Elliott Dawes and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank Sanchez greeted a packed auditorium including 383 CUNY students (of 1,037 total registrants) at the day-long, annual conference. Attendees and students from the city’s high schools engaged in a day of panel discussions and listened to remarks by New York City Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez and three keynote speakers: Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, Associate Professor of English Education, Teachers College, Columbia University and host of “Our World with Black Enterprise;” Dr. Julianne Malveaux, President, Bennett College and economist/author of “Surviving and Thriving: 365 Facts in Black Economic History;” and Adolfo Carrion, Jr., Regional Administrator, Region II NY & NJ, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, who gave the afternoon keynote address. The BMI program identifies students and develops them for success from high school through college and graduate school with funding provided by a $2.2 million dollar annual grant from the New York City Council. BMI’s 29 projects are spread throughout the University including community colleges and graduate schools where activities seek to raise consciousness and awareness of the challenges that frustrate educational progress for young black and latino males. In assessing the challenges ahead, Dr. Hill remarked on the creative programming and practices that must complement the campus experience for students and thus help to ensure successful outcomes. “The education piece must involve pathways to benefits including more humane and civilized experiences…a pathway to experience education differently post-12. In order to have these students better navigate college and professional schools, we must create a healthy context.”
SEEK Renamed to Honor Percy E. Sutton at City College Event

The evening’s downpour on October 12th never put a damper on the bright festivities inside the Great Hall at CUNY’s City College. Former and current elected officials joined with members of the CUNY community to celebrate the renaming of the landmark SEEK program in honor of Percy E. Sutton, a revered African-American leader, lawyer, and civil-rights activist who was prominent in business and political arenas. Sutton was Manhattan Borough President from 1966 to 1977; and, in 1966, as a member of the New York State Assembly worked with others to create SEEK—the Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge. He passed away in 2009. SEEK began as a special pathway to pursue a college degree for thousands of promising students who otherwise lacked the requisite educational preparation and financial resources. Assemblyman Keith Wright (D-Harlem) and Senator Dale Volker (R-Depew) sponsored the measure that honors the memory of Sutton for the “countless individuals he helped throughout his lifetime.” Celebration attendees also enjoyed the premier of “Second Chances,” a film that documents the story of SEEK and College Discovery, its sister program. Offering the evening’s remarks were Assemblyman Wright, CCNY President Lisa S. Coico, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Frank Sanchez, SEEK/CD Associate Dean Cheryl Williams, SEEK student Jeffrey McClellan and Keisha Sutton James, granddaughter of Percy Sutton and Vice President of ICBC Broadcast Holdings, Inc.

CUNY Athletic Conference Holds 2011 Goodwill Tour Documentary Screening

On Friday October 14th the premiere of a very special film took place at the CUNY Graduate Center. The documentary “New Orleans – Rebuilding” showcases the extraordinary efforts of students, student-athletes and staff during the very first CUNY Athletic Conference Goodwill Tour inside the domestic United States—and to the 2005 hurricane devastated area of the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans, Louisiana. Sponsored by CUNYAC, the 2011 Goodwill Tour brought together twenty exemplary students to participate in what many termed a transformative life experience. Hailing from 15 campuses as well as the Macaulay Honors College, the Malave Leadership Academy, and the University Student Senate, the students participated in a full eight days of service-learning activities and student development, helping to refurbish a community still in need of urgent assistance and major renovation. The ambitious students cleared lots, renovated houses and gardens, and worked with other non-profit and community groups. In the film, their personal reflections and the gratitude of the residents clearly demonstrate the mutually beneficial and energizing experience had by all. Remarked CUNYAC Executive Director Zak Ivkovic, “Athletics, student development, service and leadership combine across our broad University to produce transformative experiences for students beyond anything they will experience in the classroom.” You can find out more about the trip, the students, and all 2011-2012 CUNYAC games at www.CUNYAthletics.com