

# ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to our latest issue. It has been a busy fall thus far here in the central Office of Academic Affairs (OAA). We look forward to sending you our next issue in January. Meantime, please accept our best wishes for a happy holiday season.

—Erika Dreifus, OAA Director of Communications

## A Message on Enrollment from the Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost

By this time every fall semester, we are able to look closely at our new data and gain a clearer understanding of enrollment trends at the University. This information is essential to academic planning and assists us in meeting our mission of providing all New Yorkers with access to a high-quality educational experience.

In many ways, we are profoundly encouraged when we see record enrollments. This year, more than 270,000 students enrolled at CUNY, including nearly 9,500 more undergraduates than enrolled last fall. These record-setting enrollments mark the University's 11th straight year of growth.

Moreover, the University is attracting greater numbers of highly qualified students. This year, CUNY accepted 20,202 applicants who presented a high-school GPA of 85 or above, a 7.8 percent increase from fall 2010 and an extraordinary 104.5 percent increase from fall 2002. This, too, is good news.

We look closely at the data to find patterns and trends both within individual colleges and across the University. For instance, the data reveal that the largest enrollment increases are taking place at the community colleges. They also show vigorous transfer enrollments.

But our growth presents challenges, especially in difficult fiscal times. We do not simply want to grant students admission to CUNY. We want to—we must—provide every student with the best education possible and every opportunity for success, and that goal continues to be challenged at some of our colleges by very high rates of growth.

Perhaps consistent with this conclusion, for the first time in several years, it appears that our students are not, on average, taking more credits than the previous year. This is a concern because higher average numbers of credits taken are associated with higher retention and graduation rates—greater student success. We need to go deeper into these numbers and find out why the upward trend in average numbers of credits has ceased, and how we can restart it.

CUNY is a wonderful resource for New York City, and it is increasingly recognized as such. We must ensure that our excellent reputation is maintained through excellent service to our students.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra W. Logue

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PATHWAYS UPDATE  
Page 2

MAJOR GRANT RECEIVED  
Page 2

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS APPROVED  
Page 2

MATH RESEARCH STUDIES COMPLETED  
Page 3

OAA TRANSITIONS  
Page 3

EDITORIAL TIPS AND TRICKS  
Page 3

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COLLOQUIUM  
Page 4

SEEK AND CD PROGRAMS CELEBRATE  
Page 4

SAVE THE DATES  
Page 4

ACRONYMS  
Page 5

OUTSTANDING ONLINE RESOURCES  
Page 5

## Pathways to Degree Completion Progress Update

At its meeting of June 27, 2011, the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approved a resolution establishing the Pathways to Degree Completion Initiative (“Pathways”). This initiative was designed to create a curricular structure that will streamline transfers and enhance the quality of general education across the University.

As described in the September-October 2011 issue of this newsletter, the first phase of the work required to implement Pathways—creating the 30-credit Common Core—began in July. Chaired by CUNY Law School Dean Michelle J. Anderson, a Pathways Task Force has recently released, for CUNY-wide review and comment, a draft of this framework. Responses and feedback are due back by November 15.

In the meantime, work has begun on a second phase, which is focusing on establishing the first three to six courses that lead into the largest transfer majors at CUNY. The board’s resolution specifies that recommendations for these courses are to be made by May 1, 2012 to the Office of Academic Affairs by relevant disciplinary committees.

After examining data that delineate the largest transfer majors; inviting nominations from multiple sources, including University Faculty Senate and discipline council leaders; and ensuring that each major committee includes faculty members from colleges that either send or receive significant numbers of students in that major, the chancellor appointed faculty to serve on committees for biology, business, criminal justice, English, nursing, psychology, and teacher education. Under the chairmanship of Graduate Center President Bill Kelly, these committees first convened in late October and will continue their work into the spring 2012 semester.

For more information and frequent updates concerning Pathways, please visit and bookmark [www.cuny.edu/pathways](http://www.cuny.edu/pathways).

## CUNY COLLEGES WIN NEARLY \$20 MILLION FOR ADULT JOB TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Out-of-work adult New Yorkers who are changing careers will soon have a new way to retool for today’s job market, thanks to a nearly \$20 million federal grant to a consortium of six community and two comprehensive colleges. The \$19,860,087 grant to CUNY’s Career PATH program for job training and workforce development — administered by the U.S. Department of Labor in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education — is among 32 nationwide and the only one in New York State.

Speaking to the Board of Trustees shortly after the grant was announced in September, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein called the grant “an extraordinary accomplishment.” He praised the cross-campus collaboration and the work of many faculty and administrators whose efforts had helped CUNY win the award.

The consortium consists of CUNY’s six community colleges and two comprehensive colleges which offer both two- and four-year degrees: the College of Staten Island and New York City College of Technology. The grants are for targeted training and workforce development to help economically dislocated workers who are changing careers. (The term “economically dislocated” generally describes workers, often older and with stable employment histories, who lose jobs due to business shutdown or layoff.) The grants support partnerships between community colleges and employers to develop programs that provide pathways to good jobs, including building instructional programs that meet specific industry needs.

To read a full article on this award, please visit <http://bit.ly/qUM33h>.

### NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS APPROVED

At its meeting of September 26, 2011, CUNY’s Board of Trustees approved the following new academic programs:

**BS in Mathematics Education**  
(City Tech)

**Dual/Joint AAS/  
BSEd in  
Technology/  
Career and  
Technical  
Education**  
(Queensborough CC/  
City Tech)

**Dual/Joint AS/BS  
in Accounting for  
Forensic  
Accounting/  
Economics**  
(BMCC/John Jay  
College)

**AS in Police  
Science**  
(Hostos CC)

*Except for the AS in Police Science, for which registration is complete, these programs now await registration with the New York State Education Department.*

## CUNY Faculty Complete Math Research Studies

In spring 2009, the Office of Academic Affairs launched a grant program, Improving Undergraduate Mathematics Learning (IML), to support CUNY faculty members in studying how to enhance undergraduate mathematics instruction. From its inception, IML has aimed to cultivate better learning in CUNY's undergraduate mathematics classrooms and to address demonstrated gaps in math knowledge among CUNY's undergraduate population by supporting evidence-based research projects.

The program's request for proposals (RFP) announced the availability of grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000. In response, 33 letters of intent were received, and authors were invited to attend a research design workshop in September 2009 to hone their projects. Faculty were encouraged to devise creative solutions or test ones that they had read about, and to develop the means to effectively assess whether their solutions worked.

In all, 26 full proposals were submitted the following month, and the IML review panel—three senior-level mathematics faculty and three Central Office administrators with research expertise—relied on a blind review process to assess the competitive pool of applicants. In November, ten faculty teams were chosen to receive grants ranging from \$32,000 to \$86,000, depending on the scope and extent of the proposal; the investigators included 27 faculty members from eight different CUNY campuses.

The IML projects explored topics including small-group tutoring, collaborative learning, student-centered instruction, adaptive syllabi, study skills and time management training, peer coaching, problem-centered learning, distributed practice, online homework programs, virtual manipulatives, and modular workshops. Faculty investigators measured success in terms of successful course completion, student retention rates, increased test scores, and measurable improvement in students' confidence and attitude towards mathematics. Six projects concern remedial mathematics instruction, and four focus on credit-bearing mathematics instruction.

All ten IML grant teams have recently submitted their final reports, which are being added to the Math Matters website ([www.cuny.edu/mathmatters](http://www.cuny.edu/mathmatters)). The findings will be further disseminated in conference presentations, CUNY publications, and peer-reviewed journals. Many teams plan to seek additional funding to continue their research, and some teams have already begun to seek such funding. The central Office of Academic Affairs and EVC Logue thank the IML teams for their innovation and hard work, and look forward to the benefits students will realize as the faculty's findings are applied in CUNY mathematics classrooms.

### Office of Academic Affairs Transitions: New Names to Note

The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) is pleased to welcome **Robert (Bob) Maruca, Jr.**, as OAA's new University Executive Director of Academic Financial Affairs and Planning. Also joining the Office of Academic Financial Affairs and Planning is Administrative Assistant **Joel Brewster**, who is familiar to many within OAA from his work staffing the sixth-floor reception desk. Elsewhere, **Evan Koller** has joined the Office for Policy Research as Policy Research Associate, and **Farida Lada** has begun serving as University Director for Research Compliance.

The OAA unit within the University Admissions Processing Center (UAPC) has welcomed several new employees since September, including **Vanita Kontrakul**, **Charlie Calco**, **Canitha Reme**, and **Quinnetta Younge**. In Collaborative Programs, new employees include **Sonya Boothroyd**, **Margarita Feliz**, **Tiffany Traylor**, **Elvin Aviles**, **Leslie Paoletti**, **Sabrina Harris**, and **Bartolo Liguori**. Welcome to one and all!

### Editorial Tips and Tricks

This recurring column features usage issues that we deal with in our university setting. Source: the Associated Press (AP) "Ask the Editor" feature: [www.apstylebook.com](http://www.apstylebook.com).

**Q.** Board-certified physician, but do you hyphenate board certified in the sentence, "She is board certified in..."?

**A.** Correct with hyphen.

**Q.** We see e-newsletter, newsletter, and Enewsletter written by various organizations, but can't find a definitive answer. Does AP have a position on this Internet term?

**A.** AP spells it e-newsletter with a hyphen. Of the various e- terms, only email is spelled as one word in AP Style.

## Colloquium on Community Colleges Convenes

“If we don’t reimagine community college education, and convince the marketplace of its tremendous value to our future, our country’s entrepreneurial capacity and its educated workforce—that is, our social and economic front line—will be seriously compromised,” said CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein in his opening keynote address at CUNY’s First National Colloquium on Community Colleges, which was held at the Graduate Center on September 23. As the Chancellor said, “Let’s make no mistake: a degree matters. Degree recipients earn more, have better food and housing security, are healthier and participate more in their communities.”

About 250 community college leaders, including 55 presidents from 26 states, participated in this invitation-only event. Also present were prominent faculty, researchers, and administrators from CUNY, other universities, and several national educational organizations and foundations.

Responding to President Obama’s challenge to graduate 5 million community college students by 2020, the attendees discussed imaginative ways to improve retention and graduation. The full day of discussion covered innovative programs, such as CUNY’s Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching’s Statway and Quantway, and the Voluntary Framework for Accountability. The colloquium also emphasized issues relating to the recruitment and retention of students from underrepresented groups. All in all, the colloquium highlighted the complexity of the topics discussed and the need to continue exchanging information and effective practices. Conference sessions are available for viewing at <http://bit.ly/pWakuX>.

## CELEBRATIONS FOR CUNY’S SEEK AND CD PROGRAMS

The City University of New York has celebrated the renaming of its landmark SEEK program to honor Percy E. Sutton, a prominent African-American political and business leader, civil-rights activist and lawyer who served as Manhattan Borough President from 1966 to 1977 and died in 2009. The program will henceforth be known as “The Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK Program.”

As a member of the New York State Assembly, Sutton was a leader in the creation of SEEK – the Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) Program – in 1966. “This program allowed thousands of promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to attend college at one of the City University Colleges with the help of state funding,” says the justification for the state law that renamed the program.

The Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK and College Discovery programs, two of CUNY’s distinguished opportunity programs, have also recently announced an affiliation with Operation HOPE, a California-based financial-empowerment organization. On November 2, CUNY signed an agreement to introduce Operation HOPE’s Banking on Our Future (College Edition) into both opportunity programs. Starting this fall, Operation HOPE will present a series of seminars designed to educate SEEK and CD students on all aspects of personal financial literacy. Among the topics included are taxes, debt management, and investing. Students may also choose to attend workshops on other areas, such as home ownership and small-business development.

Banking on Our Future provides financial empowerment instruction that is tailored to students during three phases of their college careers: as incoming freshmen, as upperclassmen, and as graduating seniors entering the job market. Operation HOPE launched its work aimed toward improving the financial situations of economically disadvantaged communities and individuals nearly 20 years ago, and has expanded into a global service. For more information, please visit [www.operationhope.org](http://www.operationhope.org).

### SAVE THE DATES

**November is CUNY Month**, “a celebration of the people and programs that enrich every part of the University.”

[www.cuny.edu/cunymonth](http://www.cuny.edu/cunymonth)

#### November 15:

Comment period closes for feedback on the Pathways Project draft report and recommendations for the Common Core.

[www.cuny.edu/pathways](http://www.cuny.edu/pathways)

**November 28:** The CUNY Board of Trustees will meet at 4:30 p.m.

[www.cuny.edu/trustees](http://www.cuny.edu/trustees)

#### December 1 and 2:

CUNY and the Center for Digital Education will host the 10th Annual CUNY IT Conference at John Jay College.

[www.](http://www.convergemag.com)

[convergemag.com/events/CUNY-IT-Conference-2011.html](http://www.convergemag.com/events/CUNY-IT-Conference-2011.html)

The holidays are coming! Check the employee holiday schedule that is available online at <http://bit.ly/r6moJf>.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.CUNY.EDU/  
ACADEMICS](http://WWW.CUNY.EDU/ACADEMICS)

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We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of our newsletter.  
Please send any feedback and/or ideas for future content to  
[erika.dreifus@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:erika.dreifus@mail.cuny.edu), or visit the Office of Academic  
Affairs electronic suggestion box at

[www.cuny.edu/academics](http://www.cuny.edu/academics)

*Thanks to David Crook, Eduardo Martí, Jordan Rome, Emily Stanback, Mari  
Watanabe-Rose, and Cheryl Williams for their contributions.*

### ACRONYMS OF THE MONTH:

#### VETERANS EDITION

**MOVA:** Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs

**USERRA:** The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment  
Rights Act

**VA:** United States Department of Veterans Affairs

**VTA:** Veterans Tuition Awards

*For more information on these and other acronyms, please visit [www.cuny.edu/  
about/info/acronym-dictionary.html](http://www.cuny.edu/about/info/acronym-dictionary.html).*

*For more about veterans affairs at CUNY, please visit [www.cuny.edu/veterans](http://www.cuny.edu/veterans).  
To all of CUNY's veterans: **Thank you for your service!***

## OUTSTANDING ONLINE RESOURCES

In every issue, *Academically Speaking* spotlights relevant web resources for the CUNY community. If you know of a site that you think should be featured here, please contact Erika Dreifus, OAA Director of Communications, with your suggestion.

### **COSA@CUNY**

The Central Office of Student Affairs (COSA) has launched a quarterly newsletter, "COSA @ CUNY." If you haven't seen the first issue yet, you can find it online at [www1.cuny.edu/portal\\_ur/Newsletter-3.pdf](http://www1.cuny.edu/portal_ur/Newsletter-3.pdf). (Among the items in the first COSA @ CUNY newsletter is an announcement regarding a new Student Policies and Procedures website. Intended to provide "a convenient, one-stop resource for the University community and the general public," this website launched on September 6: [www.cuny.edu/studentpolicies](http://www.cuny.edu/studentpolicies).)

### **Research Newsletter**

While we're on the subject of newsletters: Did you know that the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research also publishes one? The fall 2011 issue is packed with information about people, projects, and events across the University. Download your copy from [www.cuny.edu/research/news-events/newsletter-archive.html](http://www.cuny.edu/research/news-events/newsletter-archive.html).

### **Salute to Scholars**

Finally, don't miss the latest "Salute to Scholars" magazine. The fall 2011 issue features articles on online learning at CUNY. Peruse individual articles at [www.cuny.edu/news/publications/salute-to-scholars/fall2011.html](http://www.cuny.edu/news/publications/salute-to-scholars/fall2011.html) or download a copy from [www.cuny.edu/news/publications/sts-fall2011.pdf](http://www.cuny.edu/news/publications/sts-fall2011.pdf).