LaGuardia Community College in many ways represents that vision.

It is a place where New Yorkers from all walks of life can find a path to a future with a good job and a shot at a better life.

We’ll offer a fair shot to the workforce of tomorrow...changing a mindset that focuses on tax breaks for big corporations rather than making it easier for our people to earn the skills they need to land jobs at those companies.

We know the soaring cost of CUNY makes higher education harder and harder for everyday New Yorkers to afford.

And we understand that higher education is the path to a better life...the great equalizer...the key to lifting oneself into the middle class.

To that end, we will focus on the training and skills that individuals need to meet the demands generated by large and small employers of our city.

And we’ll not only fight to shift resources from corporate subsidies to tuition assistance, we’ll work to connect higher education to the jobs that the 21st Century workforce requires.

CUNY has always been the engine that drove New York’s economy, making sure that our great industries had the workforce they needed to thrive.

Today, new industries are driving an economic future with jobs we could not have envisioned just a few years ago.
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And CUNY is going to help us fill those jobs with New Yorkers who are educated and ready to work.

We will forgo big giveaways to a select few companies and instead pursue a city economic strategy that grows whole sectors of small businesses in emerging industries—from technology, to green jobs, to food exports, to advanced manufacturing—companies that can generate good jobs at decent wages in all five boroughs.
De Blasio pushes for raise in city’s minimum wage
By Yoav Gonen and Beth DeFalco
February 10, 2014

Mayor de Blasio dropped another hot political potato in Gov. Cuomo’s lap Monday by announcing he’ll ask Albany for permission to raise the minimum wage for city businesses.

“We want to ensure that New Yorkers aren’t relegated to the ranks of the poor when putting in a full week’s work,” de Blasio said in his first State of the City speech in a packed auditorium at LaGuardia Community College in Queens.

“Next week, we will ask Albany to give New York City the power to raise the minimum wage in all five boroughs.”

Cuomo and state leaders reached a deal last year to hike the minimum wage statewide from $7.25 to $8 an hour as of Jan. 1. It is scheduled to jump to $8.25 at the end of the year and $9 by the end of 2015.

Although legislation was introduced in the state Senate last week to allow municipalities to set their own wage floors, some officials are saying last year’s deal was meant to serve as the final word.

“Current state law is the result of a three-way agreement between the governor, Senate and Assembly, and we have no plans to revisit that law,” said a spokeswoman for state Senate GOP co-leader Dean Skelos. “Senate Republicans remain focused on policies that create new, good-paying jobs and reduce the high cost of doing business in New York.”

A Cuomo administration source quickly dismissed de Blasio’s idea as “Been there, done that.”

Neither de Blasio nor his staffers put a figure on how high he would seek to raise the minimum wage here.

But city Comptroller Scott Stringer has proposed setting it at $11 an hour.

De Blasio is already at odds with Cuomo over how to fund universal pre-K programs in the city.

In his speech Monday, the mayor also committed to expanding “living wage” legislation, which currently requires firms that get city subsidies to pay employees a minimum of $10 per hour, plus $1.50 in benefits.

De Blasio’s address, titled “A Fair Shot for Everyone,” touched on many of his campaign initiatives without providing much additional detail.
He touted his efforts to save faltering city hospitals, his commitment to job-training through the City University and other partnerships, and his push for Albany to approve a tax hike on wealthy New Yorkers to fund universal pre-K and after-school programs in the city.

Income inequality took center stage in the 42-minute speech.

“Our middle class isn’t just squeezed,” the mayor said, “it’s at risk of disappearing altogether.”
De Blasio Plans a Minimum Wage and City ID Cards

By MICHAEL M. GRYNBALM and KIRK SEMPLE
February 10, 2014

Mayor Bill de Blasio charted a robust liberal agenda for New York City on Monday, pledging to bypass Washington to address economic and social disparities by expanding benefits for illegal immigrants and pressing for a higher local minimum wage.

In his first State of the City address, Mr. de Blasio said New York would become the largest municipality to offer identification cards to residents regardless of their legal status, making it easier for undocumented immigrants to open bank accounts, lease apartments or borrow library books.

And he vowed to bring New York in line with other liberal strongholds, like San Francisco and Washington, that already set their own minimum wage, although Mr. de Blasio will need approval from legislators in Albany to enact his version.

In promising to move quickly with his plans, the mayor made clear that he had lost patience with federal lawmakers, whose efforts to enact similar policies have stagnated, and that he was undaunted by the resistance he is already encountering among officials in the State Capitol.

“We cannot wait for Washington to act,” Mr. de Blasio said. “We will not let the gridlock there — or even the limits of Albany — serve as an excuse for New York City to roll over and ignore our mission.”

Mr. de Blasio is hoping to follow in the steps of other local leaders who have brought about liberal reforms in the face of congressional gridlock. Seattle’s new mayor is pushing a measure to make the city’s minimum wage among the highest in the nation. Mr. de Blasio’s proposal of municipal ID cards for undocumented immigrants, novel in New York, is based on similar measures already in place in several other municipalities around the country, including New Haven, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Mayor de Blasio said he and the City Council, whose new leaders are closely aligned with him, would also work to expand New York’s “living wage” law to cover tens of thousands of workers whose employers receive city subsidies.

In substance and rhetoric, the mayor’s speech outlined a City Hall devoted to repairing the inequalities that he said had frayed the city’s social fabric. Summing up his approach, Mr. de Blasio invoked Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia’s ideal of “government with a soul.”

Still, for all its liberal loft, the address also reinforced Mr. de Blasio’s vulnerabilities: a tendency to propose plans anathema to crucial Albany lawmakers who must approve them, and a vagueness that has raised concerns about how the mayor can deliver on his promises.

As mayor, Mr. de Blasio, a former political operative, has so far overseen a campaign-style operation at City Hall, and his address on Monday more closely resembled a restatement of his usual themes than an airing of fresh policy proposals.

He was stingy with specifics, offering no dollar figure for what he hoped the city’s minimum wage would be, and his description of ambitious plans, like a goal of creating thousands of new units of affordable housing, came with few details about how they would be carried out.
To set a local minimum wage, Mr. de Blasio must first receive permission from lawmakers in Albany, where he is already facing determined resistance on a marquee proposal to raise taxes on wealthy residents to pay for expanded prekindergarten and after-school programs.

There were signs on Monday that Republican leaders, who have partial control of the State Senate, were not interested in allowing another wage increase after raising the state minimum last year.

And as Mr. de Blasio delivered his speech in Queens, legislators in the Capitol were squabbling over the mayor’s tax plan, with the Republican leader of the Senate, Dean G. Skelos, declaring he would not allow the plan to come up for a vote. Jeffrey D. Klein, the Democratic co-leader, responded by saying he would not approve a budget plan without what he called Mr. de Blasio’s “vision.”

It was an illustrative moment for the power and limitations of Mr. de Blasio’s new perch in City Hall.

The mayor’s address, in a small auditorium at LaGuardia Community College in Queens, offered a moment for Mr. de Blasio to refine his policy manifesto in a quieter setting, without the pomp and ceremony of his inaugural.

He stood behind a simple lectern on a sparsely decorated stage, reading his speech from a binder without the aid of a teleprompter. Behind him, an enormous banner — nearly the size of a nearby American flag — spelled out the slogan for Mr. de Blasio’s City Hall, “One New York.”

Mr. de Blasio praised the city’s labor leaders, who are poised to renegotiate all their contracts with the city in the coming months. The mayor also suggested that his predecessor’s technocratic approach to governance had turned off many New Yorkers. Again recalling Mayor La Guardia, Mr. de Blasio said “he saw beyond the numbers in a budget” and “understood that those numbers represented real people who were just trying to live their lives” — an implicit dig at the data-driven administration of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

The loudest applause of the afternoon came when Mr. de Blasio announced his plan for municipal identification cards, which he said would help immigrant residents without legal status participate more fully in civic life.

“To all of my fellow New Yorkers who are undocumented, I say: New York City is your home, too,” Mr. de Blasio said, “and we will not force any of our residents to live their lives in the shadows.”

The plan, a campaign pledge of the mayor’s, must be approved by the City Council, and the mayor did not specify how the program would function.

In other cities where such cards are in effect, advocates said, they are proof of identity in some instances where government identification might be needed, like opening a bank account, getting a library card, seeing a doctor at a hospital, cashing a check or signing a lease.

Advocates in New York have argued that the success of the program would depend on a broad adoption of the card beyond illegal immigrants so that it does not become synonymous with illegal immigration — or “a scarlet letter,” said Javier H. Valdes, co-executive director of Make the Road New York, a group that has been lobbying for a municipal ID.

“This needs to be an identification that all New York City residents should strive to get,” he said.
De Blasio's budget will show his true priorities

By Brendan Cheney
February 11, 2014

A candidate can support smaller class sizes, keeping hospitals open, rental assistance for homeless families, pre-kindergarten and after-school programs, as Bill de Blasio did during his mayoral campaign.

But it's his budget that will reveal his real priorities.

In theory, when the mayor releases his first budget plan this week, he'll have significant resources to work with. Michael Bloomberg proudly announced in November that he was leaving incoming mayor Bill de Blasio with a balanced budget this year (city fiscal year 2014*) and next year (city fiscal year 2015).

But while that is technically true, Bloomberg did not leave a structurally balanced budget. There is a $1.5 billion projected deficit in 2016 and a $1.0 billion projected deficit in 2017. And the estimates do not include a likely major new cost: new union contracts for all of the city's unions.

In fact, if union raises similar to ones they have received in the past are factored in, it appears to break the bank.

In the table below, you see Bloomberg's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) projection from November, with a union contract projection included. The contract projection comes from the city's Independent Budget Office (IBO). Their projection assumes the "teacher and principal unions would get the same 4 percent raises other unions received in 2008-2010 and all the municipal unions would get 2 percent wage increases from the point their contracts expired in the years 2010-2013." The balanced budgets quickly become billion-dollar deficits.

The picture may not be quite so bleak. IBO also issues its own budget projection, which recalculates revenue and expenditures. Their projection shows budget surpluses in the future before adding in projected new labor contract increases, mostly due to higher revenue estimates. As you can see below, even these surpluses turn to a cumulative deficit over the four years with the labor contract estimates added in.

Of course IBO's estimate is not the only possibility; in real life it's not an all-or-nothing proposition.

De Blasio could be less generous with contracts. He might not give back pay and the raises he does give might be less generous.

Such a part-way scenario is actually very likely: He has a long history of actively supporting the labor movement and will almost certainly give them something, but he
campaigned on a long list of progressive promises, many of which will also either require higher spending or take away expected revenue.

The list includes: making targeted class size reductions; giving rental assistance for homeless families; ending the NYCHA payments to the city; preventing hospital closures; decreasing small business fines; increasing the CUNY budget 50 percent; expanding Career and Technology Education programs; providing legal services for low wage workers; ensuring all students reading at grade level in third grade; improving Special Education; creating 100 community schools; increasing college readiness; providing universal school meals; expanding art instruction; expanding focused deterrent and crew cut policing programs; expanding police camera use; increasing shot spotter technology; expanding community justice centers; expanding Alternatives to Incarceration; expanding anti-eviction legal assistance; legalizing basement apartments; ending the water board rent payment to the city; expanding bus rapid transit; ending repayment of benefits from sponsors of low-income immigrants; improving school ESL programs; providing legal services for immigrants; expanding translation services.

Not all of these things will cost big money. But some will. Rental assistance for homeless families will cost the city roughly $100 million to house 10,000 families. Ending the water board rent payment to the city will cost the city $184 million in foregone revenue if the water board only pays the debt service (less if the city accepts some additional money to maintain a good credit rating). Ending the New York City Housing Authority’s payments to the city will also cost roughly $100 million.

Many of the other costs could be less or are harder to pin down because the promise itself is vague. How many schools will get smaller class sizes and how much smaller will the class sizes be? How much will he expand Career and Tech Education programs? How much will he expand legal services for immigrants, small businesses, and tenants? How much will he expand alternatives to incarceration and community justice centers? How will he improve special education and ensure a third-grade reading level?

These ideas are popular and substantive. But looking at the multi-year budget figures, it is hard to see how de Blasio can deliver on all of them, even without an expensive deal with the unions.

His administration will say that it can find budget savings or higher revenue to pay for some things. It can also say that he did not promise that everything in his campaign book would happen in his first year. Both statements would be true. But the multi-year budget, according to projections, is only close to balanced without considering the expensive promises.

He’s going to have to make some difficult choices about his priorities. The budget, for the first time, will reveal what they really are.
De Blasio Wants Albany to Permit Minimum Wage Increase
By Ivan Pentchoukov
February 11, 2014

Mayor Bill de Blasio added another item to his Albany wish list Monday, announcing that next week he will call on the state Legislature to give him the power to raise the city’s minimum wage.

De Blasio is already pushing a proposal in Albany to raise taxes on wealthy New Yorkers to pay for universal prekindergarten. The pre-K plan has already received resistance from Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Republicans in the state Senate.

But resistance to raising the minimum wage may be even stronger. Cuomo reached a deal last year with the Legislature to raise the minimum wage statewide to $9 by the end of 2015. A representative for Senate Republicans said that the party is unlikely to revisit the minimum wage issue this session.

Nevertheless, de Blasio has a historic precedent in his favor—incoming New York City mayors have had their wishes granted in Albany on more than one occasion.

Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg secured mayoral control of the school system upon taking office, and former Mayor David Dinkins got approval in Albany for his Safe Streets, Safe City crime reduction initiative.

De Blasio won the mayoral election with 73 percent of the vote, a larger margin than either Bloomberg or Dinkins.

“Next week, we will ask Albany to give New York City the power to raise the minimum wage in all five boroughs,” de Blasio said in his State of the City speech at LaGuardia Community College Monday.

“In the process, we will send a powerful signal to the people of New York—that we honor work, and that we are committed to making work pay.”

De Blasio’s announcement comes amid a nationwide wave of Democratic support for higher wages. President Barack Obama vowed to raise wages for federal contract workers via an executive order in his State of the Union speech.

In the city, fast-food workers in pursuit of higher wages joined nationwide protests several times over the last year, and airport workers staged their biggest rally yet last month. In the days following Obama’s speech and the airport worker rally, Patrick Foye, the executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, ordered airlines to raise wages for workers making less than $9 an hour by $1.
Tale of Two Cities

Raising the minimum wage is one of many equalizers de Blasio aims to employ to address what he calls an income inequality crisis in New York City. During his speech Monday, the mayor reiterated his key inequality-fighting promises to build 200,000 units of affordable housing, expand paid sick leave to 500,000 New Yorkers, and provide a living wage for people who work for city-subsidized employers.

De Blasio started his speech by talking about the recovery of the city’s financial sector amid a less bright economic outlook for the city’s lower and middle classes. He pointed out that 46 percent of city residents live at or near the poverty line.

“Because the truth is, the state of our city, as we find it today, is a tale of two cities—with an inequality gap that fundamentally threatens our future,” de Blasio said.

“It must not, and will not, be ignored by your city government.”
Bill de Blasio highlights wealth gap in mayor's first state of the city speech
By Adam Gabbatt
February 10, 2014

New York City mayor Bill de Blasio gave his inaugural state of the city address on Monday, reprising the Tale of Two Cities rhetoric he honed during his campaign, to warn of “an inequality gap that fundamentally threatens our future”.

De Blasio expanded on his pre-kindergarten plan for the city as he made the case for tax increases on the wealthy, while seeking to temper expectation by highlighting “unprecedented” budget challenges – including renegotiating union contracts.

The main focus for the self-styled progressive mayor was on income inequality and narrowing the gap between rich and poor. While Wall Street and some New York neighbourhoods had “rebounded” following the recession, De Blasio said, others were still struggling.

“For millions in this city – New Yorkers living in all five boroughs – the economic rebound hasn’t just been slow in coming. It seems a distant fantasy, with the ladder up to the good life stretching farther and farther out of reach,” De Blasio said.

“Good jobs that pay decent wages are all too scarce. Access to the best health care seems, to many, to be a privilege that cannot be earned. To countless New Yorkers, affordable housing is an oxymoron.

“And a quality education – the most powerful tool we know for lifting one’s life chances – has become a promise broken too many times to tally. All the while, 46% of our city’s residents live at or near the poverty line.”

De Blasio was speaking at La Guardia Community College in Queens and was introduced by Katherine La Guardia, granddaughter of Fiorello La Guardia, a popular mayor of New York City between 1934 and 1945.

Having outlined the challenges New Yorkers face, the mayor laid out his plans to remedy the state of the city, including a goal to “preserve or construct nearly 200,000 units of affordable housing”. A detailed housing plan would be released by 1 May, De Blasio said.

De Blasio said he will ask the state government in Albany next week to grant him the power to raise the minimum wage in the city. “In the process, we will send a powerful signal to the people of New York – that we honor work ... and that we are committed to making work pay.”
On the education front, De Blasio reiterated his plan to extend pre-kindergarten education, a major campaign issue, and to extend after school programs for middle school children. "Study after study shows that children who access Pre-K programs are more likely to stay on a path to a productive life.

"Middle-schoolers who access after-school programs are less likely to fall victim to gangs and street violence, more likely to graduate and go on to college or the world of work, to have hope for lifting themselves out of a cycle of poverty and into a world of possibility."

The plan would cost an average of $970 for those earning between $500,000 and a million dollars, De Blasio said. "But to the young minds that we help shape...the pre-teen lives that we keep safe...the generation of working New Yorkers that we put on a path to success...it will be priceless."

There was a message too, for "the almost half-million undocumented New Yorkers, whose voices too often go unheard". The mayor said he would issue municipal ID cards to undocumented citizens, "so that no daughter or son of our city goes without bank accounts, leases, library cards simply because they lack identification".

On jobs, De Blasio said his administration would advance a dedicated science, technology, engineering and math program at the City University of New York which will prepare more students for jobs in New York City's burgeoning tech industry.

"Our aim is that within eight years, the majority of skilled technology-related jobs in New York City are being filled by those educated in New York City schools."

The city will also prepare more people for "middle-skill, middle-class jobs" by beefing up programs that allow high school and university students to get work experience in hospitals, the mayor said.

De Blasio did seek to temper expectation, however, by highlighting the "unprecedented" budgetary challenges ahead: federal government in gridlock, state budget issues and the "150 municipal labor contracts that are unsettled".

The mayor championed some of his early successes, including the implementation of the Vision Zero pedestrian safety plan - although there have been questions after jaywalkers were targeted last month - and reminding the audience that his administration had recently settled in the Floyd v City of New York case, allowing major reforms to the controversial policy to move forward.

"We continue working to build a bond of trust between law enforcement and the neighborhoods they serve...to ensure that New Yorkers see their safety and their rights protected," De Blasio said. "And to protect our police officers, who want and need community partners as they work so hard to root out crime."
De Blasio will give his first budget address later this week, when he is scheduled to outline his priorities for the city’s $70 billion-plus budget and elaborate on the upcoming contract negotiations with all of the city’s unions.

He did not go into detail on Monday, acknowledging instead that “it will not be easy”.
Abraham Foxman To Step Down as Anti-Defamation League Chief
By Forward Staff
February 10, 2014

Abraham H. Foxman announced he will step down from his position as national director of the Anti-Defamation League on July 20, 2015, ending a 50-year career in Jewish communal service.

“ADL offered me the perfect vehicle to live a life of purpose both in standing up on behalf of the Jewish people to ensure that what happened during World War II would never happen again and in fighting bigotry and all forms of oppression,” Foxman said in a statement. “My years at ADL, particularly the 27 spent as National Director, could not have been more rewarding.”

Foxman, a Holocaust survivor who was hidden as a child during the war, began his career with the ADL in 1965 after graduating from the City College of the City University of New York and New York University School of Law. He rose through the ranks and, in 1987, was tapped as national director.

During his tenure, the ADL continued to grow as the premier organization fighting anti-Semitism bigotry and discrimination with 30 regional offices across the United States and an office in Israel. It celebrated its centennial year in 2013.

Foxman has a leading voice confronting the forces of anti-Semitism and intolerance of all types. He has become a familiar face worldwide for his embrace of global leaders who see eye-to-eye with the ADL’s mission of standing up to intolerance.

“Abe Foxman is a unique leader in American Jewish life. No one brings the combination of passion, experience, insight and courage to the Jewish community like Abe.” Barry Curtiss-Lusher, ADL national chair, said.

Foxman announced his retirement at the ADL’s annual National Executive Committee meeting in Palm Beach, Fla. The organization said its search for Foxman’s successor will be conducted by the executive search firm BoardWalk Consulting and will be guided by ADL leadership.

In 2011, the last year for which data is available, the ADL reported nearly $54 million in revenue. The organization monitors anti-Semitic activity, offers discrimination-sensitivity training and runs anti-bias programs.

But it is Foxman’s personage for which the ADL may best be known. Seen as a spokesman for the Jewish people, Foxman has used his position as a bully pulpit to advocate for Israel, warn against discrimination and, perhaps most often, issue declamations of what does or does not constitute anti-Semitism.
Whether they be condemnations of foreign leaders or pardons of celebrities who have made ill-considered utterances, Foxman’s has been the authoritative voice on what is or is not acceptable to Jews.

After he steps down, Foxman will serve as a part-time consultant to ADL and sit on the organization’s national commission and national executive committee, the organization said.
Abe Foxman to Retire Next Year as ADL’s National Director
By: Lori Lowenthal Marcus
February 11, 2014

On Monday, Feb. 10, the Anti-Defamation League announced that its long-time national director Abraham H. Foxman will step down from his position on July 20, 2015.

“For almost five decades, ADL offered me the perfect vehicle to live a life of purpose both in standing up on behalf of the Jewish people to ensure that what happened during World War II would never happen again and in fighting bigotry and all forms of oppression,” Foxman said.

“My years at ADL, particularly the 27 spent as National Director, could not have been more rewarding. ADL continued its growth as a highly respected and influential organization both here in the United States and across the globe. We have never lost sight of the fact that we are an organization whose first priority is to fight anti-Semitism and protect the Jewish people. I’m proud of all that we have accomplished.”

Foxman, a Holocaust survivor who was hidden as a child during the war, and who later immigrated to America with his parents, began his career with the ADL in 1965 after graduating from the City College of the City University of New York and New York University School of Law.

In 1987, Foxman was tapped as the ADL’s National Director. During his tenure, the ADL grew to include 30 regional offices in the U.S. as well as an office in Israel. The League celebrated its centennial year in 2013. Foxman announced his retirement to members of the League’s National Executive Committee during its annual meeting in Palm Beach, Florida, and shortly thereafter in a letter to members of ADL’s National Commission.

The ADL has instituted a Succession Committee which will be conducting an extensive nationwide executive search for Foxman’s successor.

The ADL is one of the biggest and most powerful American Jewish organizations. Its early mandate was fighting discrimination against Jews, but in later years it weighed in on matters pertaining to Israel, and also to other forms of perceived discrimination, including what it calls “Islamophobia.”

Charles Jacobs, another long-time leader of the American Jewish community, expressed his disappointment at the direction in which the ADL, under Foxman, traveled in recent years. “When Abe Foxman began his career at the ADL, the greatest threats to the Jewish people were neo-Nazis and the unreconstructed Christian anti-Semites. But in more recent years, as Foxman himself would sometimes tell reporters, the greatest threat to the Jewish people is now Islamic anti-Semitism. This, along with leftist anti-Zionism constitute ‘the new anti-Semitism.’ Tragically, Foxman failed to pivot to meet those
threats both in terms of his personal energy as well as the vast resources of his organization,” Jacobs told The Jewish Press by telephone on Monday evening.

“When we started the Boston branch of CAMERA [the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America], we wanted the ADL to take the lead against anti-Israel bias in the media. He declined. Instead, Foxman led the ADL towards a politically correct universalism, using Jewish resources to address general liberal concerns, and waging campaigns against general human nastiness, like bullying, and misleading Jews about the situation we actually are in.

“Rather than leading the largest Jewish defense agency against the most daunting of our adversaries, Foxman frittered on the sidelines despite knowing exactly who and where the dangers lie,” Jacobs added. “I hope the next national director does a better job,” he concluded.

Effective July 20, 2015, Foxman will become ADL Director Emeritus. He will serve on both the ADL National Commission and the ADL National Executive Committee in addition to serving in a part-time consultancy.
Final 4 candidates for vice provost position selected

February 10, 2014

Four candidates remain in the search for the new vice provost of student affairs, a position that acts as a liaison between students and higher administration.

Among other duties, the new vice provost of student affairs will help establish and implement Phase III of the university’s Strategic Plan for the 21st Century. The position also entails enhancing the diversity of the Oregon State University community and working with outside organizations to promote the welfare of students.

The new hire will replace the current vice provost, Larry Roper, who is stepping down at the end of June. The candidates are Susie Brubaker-Cole, Salvador Mena, Brent Paterson and Ed Whipple.

Brubaker-Cole has experience with the Oregon State community, currently serving as the associate provost for academic success and engagement. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Washington, Brubaker-Cole has also served as Stanford University’s associate vice president for undergraduate education.

Mena, a graduate of the University of Maine and the University of Maryland, has worked in higher education for 18 years at more than seven institutions. He currently serves as the deputy to the vice president for student affairs at the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York.

Currently the senior associate vice president for student affairs at Illinois State University, Paterson holds more than 35 years of experience working with college students. Paterson earned degrees from Lambuth College, the University of Memphis and the University of Denver before beginning his career at Texas A&M University on the student affairs staff.

Whipple, although currently a senior consultant with higher education consulting firm Keeling and Associates, previously served as a vice president for student affairs at Bowling Green State University and Montana State University-Billings. Whipple earned degrees from Willamette University, Northwestern University and Oregon State University.

All aforementioned resume information was taken from the Oregon State University division of student affairs website.
A very cozy relationship
By Chris Bragg
February 10, 2014

A growing number of lobbying firms in New York City double as political campaign consultants. That creates a dynamic—one frowned upon by good-government groups—whereby firms lobby the same candidates that they helped to elect.

In the case of Melissa Mark-Viverito's winning bid to be City Council speaker, Pitta Bishop Del Giorno & Giblin was lobbying her at the same time that it was guiding her campaign, according to the firm's disclosure forms.

Late last year, for instance, as the speaker race was heating up, the firm and labor leader Harry Nespoli met with Ms. Mark-Viverito to discuss "numerous city matters including recycling, contracts [and] outsourcing," the records show. Mr. Nespoli is president of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association and head of the Municipal Labor Committee, the umbrella group for the city's public-sector unions.

A Pitta Bishop spokesman said the meeting was timed with the advent of winter, primarily to register Mr. Nespoli's request that private plowers hired by the city to clear tertiary and dead-end streets be replaced by his union's workers.

Pitta Bishop also reported lobbying Ms. Mark-Viverito's office and a number of other Manhattan lawmakers late last year for its client East Side Alliance Against Overdevelopment, a new group fighting the planned CUNY Hunter/Memorial Sloan-Kettering medical complex on the Upper East Side. The firm lobbied Joseph Taranto, the councilwoman's then-deputy chief of staff, to delay a Manhattan borough board vote in late November to approve the project, according to lobbying records. The vote went forward.

Asked about lobbying the new speaker in general, firm partner Jon Del Giorno did not acknowledge that his role in her political ascent makes his lobbying of her more persuasive. "You give her the data, the arguments," Mr. Del Giorno said. "The client has to prove its worth."
Paul Ash, President of Music Store Chain, Dies at 84

By DOUGLAS MARTIN
February 10, 2014

Sam Ash preferred playing the violin to being an entrepreneur, and he said no when his sons, Jerome and Paul, asked him to expand beyond his single musical instrument store in Brooklyn. But five years after Sam died in 1956, the sons opened the family's first branch store, in Hempstead, N.Y. It was just the beginning.

Today, 46 Sam Ash music stores are scattered across the United States, selling instruments, recording equipment, sound and lighting gear, guitar picks and much more. The biggest is the 30,000-square-foot superstore the company opened last year on West 34th Street in Manhattan to replace its cluttered patchwork of stores on West 48th Street.

Paul Ash, who died of a heart attack on Feb. 4 in Syosset, N.Y., at 84, collaborated with his brother, who is four years older, to make Sam Ash Music the nation's largest family-owned chain of musical instrument stores. At his death, which was announced by his nephew Robert Abrams, Paul was president of Sam Ash; Jerry, as Jerome is known, is chairman.

Operational control of the company has passed to a third generation of Ashes, while a fourth generation is increasingly involved.

Paul J. Ash — he said his birth certificate had only an initial, though his mother had intended to give him the middle name Jay — was born on March 29, 1929, in Brooklyn, and grew up in an apartment divided into living quarters and a 500-square-foot store, Paul's first playground. At 9, he began unpacking merchandise and accompanying his father on deliveries all over Brooklyn.

He was part of a family-cum-business story that has become legend. His parents, born Sam Ashkynase and Rose Dinin, emigrated from Eastern Europe to New York as children and married in 1924. Mr. Ash, who legally shortened his name, was a cutter in the garment industry but hated the work. He liked playing the violin, and started the Sam Ash Orchestra to play weddings, dances and bar mitzvahs.

Mrs. Ash decreed that music was too precarious a way to make a living. So the couple decided to start a business, and pawned her engagement ring for start-up capital. (She eventually got it back.) The first Sam Ash store, in the Brownsville section, opened in 1924 with a few windup phonographs, a paltry selection of sheet music and a violin or two.

The two brothers and their sister, Marcia, helped in the store and around the house from an early age. Business was not helped by an out-of-the-way location, and the introduction of inexpensive radios decimated the phonograph business. "A good week was when we sold one instrument," Paul said in an interview with The Music Trades magazine in 1994.
In 1944 they moved the store to another location in Brownsville, where sales were better. They added band instruments and began to deliver sheet music to schools. Later, Sam, who remained a professional musician, grasped the impact of rock 'n' roll and profited by quickly adding guitars to his line.

Sam assigned 15-year-old Paul to start a record department. Paul stocked the store by working out a deal to buy records at 10 percent over cost, a small markup, from larger stores in Manhattan. A few years later, when the store was finally able to buy directly from the major record companies, the record department accounted for half of its sales volume. The business later disintegrated because of sharp competition from record discounters like Sam Goody.

Paul served in the Army from 1953 to 1955, then earned a bachelor’s degree in business at Baruch College. He and Jerry came up with ideas like advertising in the musicians’ union newspaper and combing the union’s roster to decide where to hand-deliver promotional materials. Personal services like repairing instruments overnight and tracking down obscure sheet music enhanced the company’s reputation.

By the end of the 1950s, Paul and Jerry had determined that half their customers were coming into Brooklyn from Long Island suburbs. Paul scouted locations and settled on Hempstead. The store they opened there in 1961 became one of the chain’s most successful.

Suburban expansion continued, and by 1969 Sam Ash had stores in Huntington, N.Y., and White Plains, in addition to Brooklyn and Hempstead. That same year it took over a small space on West 48th Street, long the center of the musical instrument business. Paul then personally contacted everyone on the block and managed to find a much bigger space, the first of several. The Music Trades said his success in establishing a strong position on the street “transformed Sam Ash Music almost overnight, from a struggling suburban chain into a retail dynamo.”

By 1990, the company had eight stores in the New York area, and in 1992 it moved beyond the region for the first time by opening a store in Cherry Hill, N.J., a suburb of Philadelphia.

Paul Ash’s marriage to Ada Moore, a jazz singer, ended in divorce. In addition to his brother and his sister, Marcia Ash Abrams, he is survived by his wife, Nobuko Narita, known as Cobi, a founder of the Universal Jazz Coalition, which provides help to musicians.

Paul, who lived on Long Island in Upper Brookville, never learned to play an instrument.
Manga comics may help promote fruit consumption among youth
By Eileen Leahy
February 10, 2014

A recent pilot study in Brooklyn, New York, with minority students found that exposure to Manga comics (Japanese comic art) promoting fruit intake significantly improved healthy snack selection. As snacking accounts for up to 27% of children's daily caloric intake, and childhood obesity has been linked to inadequate intake of fruits and vegetables, the results of this study could have wide-reaching implications.

"Manga comics could be used to promote healthier behaviors and beliefs related to fruit consumption in at-risk youth. The graphics and minimal text make it a promising format to engage younger populations," said lead author May May Leung, PhD, RD, City University of New York School of Public Health and Hunter College.

The study was set in two after-school programs affiliated with Brooklyn Community Services, a New York City-based nonprofit community organization, in the summer and fall of 2011. It comprised 57 youth, approximately 11 years of age, nearly 90% of whom were either Black/African American or Hispanic and 54% were female. The school districts in the study had greater percentages of students eligible for free lunch (79 and 96%, respectively) compared to the citywide average of 66%.

The researchers used an innovative intervention promoting positive dietary behaviors to capture the attention of youth living in a multimedia environment; specifically, Manga comics, which are Japanese comic art. Manga is a unique form of multimodal narrative media combining visual images and text. According to the Transportation-Imagery Model, persuasion of a story's messages occurs because an individual is "transported" or immersed into the narrative world, and images in a story are impactful in influencing behavior, which is why Manga was selected for this study.

After reading either a Manga comic, titled "Fight for Your Right to Fruit," or a non-health-related newsletter, children were given the choice between a healthy snack (oranges, grapes, apples, strawberries) or an energy-dense snack (cookies, potato chips, nacho chips, and cheese-filled crackers). Sixty-one percent of children in the comic group chose a healthy snack after reading, opposed to just 35% of the control group.

Approximately 30% to 45% of US children between the ages of 6 and 18 years do not meet recommended fruit consumption levels. Therefore, the results of this study could be useful in promoting healthy decision-making among youth as it relates to food consumption. However, because this was a pilot study, studies with a larger sample size are necessary, as are studies examining the effects of more traditional media.
Most immigrants can interview in the U.S., with a process called adjustment of status

By Allan Wernick
February 10, 2014

Q: I came to the United States with Humanitarian Parole. That was in 2005. If I marry a U.S. citizen, can I get my permanent residence in the U.S. or must I return to my home country? Pedro, Bronx

A: You can interview in the U.S., the process the law calls adjustment of status. With the exception of individuals who entered on crew member visas or transit visas, anyone who was “inspected and admitted” who marries a U.S. citizen, can adjust status. Admission with Humanitarian Parole counts. Readers wanting a review of who can adjust status should read my Dec. 29, 2013 column. Find it online at nydailynews.com.

For readers not familiar with “humanitarian parole,” it is a status granted to foreigners who Immigration lets into the U.S., though at the time they apply to enter they don’t qualify under any visa category. Once here, humanitarian parolees can work and stay so long as the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services extends their status. It is common for USCIS to extend the status of humanitarian parolees indefinitely.

Q: I want to get a reentry permit. The instructions to USCIS form I-131, Application for Travel Document, state that “You must be physically present in the U.S. when you file the Reentry Permit application and complete the biometrics services requirement.” Does that mean that I must be in the U.S. on both the day I submit the application AND the day of the biometrics appointment? Or, can I file from abroad and then just return to do the biometrics? Name Withheld, Walla Walla, WA

A: USCIS regulations require that you be in the U.S. States when you file an application for a reentry permit. You may then travel aboard, but you would need to return for the biometrics (fingerprinting and photo) appointment. After that, you are free to travel abroad again. You can even pick up the permit abroad at a U.S. consulate or USCIS office.

Reentry permits allow you to return to the United States for after a stay abroad of up to two continuous years. You can renew your permit, but you would need to return here to apply.
Manga comics could help promote fruit consumption among young adults
February 11, 2014

Researchers have suggested that exposure to Manga comics (Japanese comic art) promoting fruit intake significantly improved healthy snack selection.

Lead author May May Leung, PhD, RD, City University of New York School of Public Health and Hunter College, said Manga comics make it a promising format to engage younger populations.

The study was set in two after-school programs affiliated with Brooklyn Community Services, a New York City-based nonprofit community organization, in the summer and fall of 2011. It comprised 57 youth, approximately 11 years of age, nearly 90 per cent of whom were either Black/African American or Hispanic and 54 per cent were female.

The researchers used an innovative intervention promoting positive dietary behaviors to capture the attention of youth living in a multimedia environment; specifically, Manga comics, which are Japanese comic art.

According to the Transportation-Imagery Model, persuasion of a story's messages occurs because an individual is "transported" or immersed into the narrative world, and images in a story are impactful in influencing behavior, which is why Manga was selected for this study.

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Sixty-one percent of children in the comic group chose a healthy snack after reading, opposed to just 35 per cent of the control group.

The new study has been published in the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior.
Silver introduces scaled-down anti-boycott bill

by Jon Campbell
February 7, 2014

An Assembly bill that sought to punish New York colleges that used state money to boycott Israel or other countries that host SUNY programs has been scaled down.

The legislation, sponsored by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, would make clear that colleges that receive state aid can’t use the money to support boycotting groups, such as the American Studies Association’s academic boycott of Israel. If a school violates the proposed law, it would have an amount equal to what they spent supporting the group deducted from its state aid.

The previous iteration of Silver’s bill—which was abruptly halted in committee this week after Assembly allies raised concerns about academic freedoms—would have stripped the college of its state aid for the entire academic year.

“The change clarifies that you cannot use state funds – taxpayer dollars – to participate in a hateful and bigoted boycott aimed at countries that have regents-chartered institutions,” Silver spokesman Michael Whyland wrote in an email. “It does not limit an academic entity or organization from participating in such a boycott, it only says you cannot use state funds to do so. The use of state funds to an entity participating in any boycott (aimed at the certain countries) would be violating the provisions of the bill.”

Senate Co-Leader Jeff Klein, D-Bronx, and Assemblyman Dov Hikind, D-Brooklyn, first proposed targeting academic boycotts late last year, shortly after the ASA announced its anti-Israel action.

Late last month, the Senate overwhelmingly passed Klein’s bill, which would strip the offending colleges of state funds but included certain provisions that would allow boycotting terrorist states or countries involved in labor disputes.