

Provost's Monthly Report - January 2019

Dear Colleagues:

It has been three weeks since I joined the College. In those three weeks, I have met so many dedicated faculty, staff, and students, and I have participated in a number of campus, system and city-supported events. The January *Provost's Monthly Report*, which covers the period January 25-31, my first few days at the College, provides highlights of select conversations and initiatives within the division of Academic Affairs and Student Success and the College to advance the President's priorities and our campus mission and goals.

Student Success

- Thrilled to join President Cruz and Dr. Teresita Levy, Director of the Center for Global Engagement and her staff, on January 28 at an evening reception in a celebration of the accomplishments of nine Lehman Scholars. At this event held in the President's Conference Room in Shuster Hall, nine undergraduate students who are recipients of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and the Chancellor's Global Scholarship were honored. The awards enable students to participate in study abroad opportunities. I listened with admiration as the scholars described their journeys in writing and submitting their applications; and some spoke about the fear of telling their parents they were even applying for opportunities to travel and study abroad, an experience that became life-changing for them when they actually received the scholarships and were able to travel and study abroad. The student winners of the Chancellor's Global Scholarship and Gilman Scholarship are: Nanahawa Bagigah (Recreational Therapy, Italy), Natalie Aracena (Anthropology, Brazil), Helina Owusu-Sekyere (Biology, India), Beth Burkhardt (Psychology & Chemistry, South Korea), Stephanie Awuettey (Accounting, Singapore); the winners of the Chancellor's Global Scholarship *only* are: Wajihah Mohamadou (Psychology, Italy), Allison Welkes (Political Science, Jordan); and, the winner of the Gilman Scholarship *only* award is Nicole Flores (International Business, Singapore). The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is an annual competitive grant program funded by the U.S. Department of State, and it enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, and ultimately gaining skills critical to our nation's security and economic competitiveness.

Visit to Academic Units/Schools

- Had the great opportunity to spend a day on January 25 visiting with 15 academic units/schools that have a direct reporting structure to the Provost. It was an opportunity to listen, learn and meet with so many wonderful and talented people across our five Schools who drive the work we do at Lehman. I also met with President Cruz and many staff members in Enrollment Management, Research and Sponsored Programs, Academic Affairs, Leonard Lief Library, and Student Affairs, including units that support special populations such as veterans and military affairs, urban male leadership program, disability services, and international students. A highlight of my visit was meeting with some of the student leaders in the Office of Campus Life.

Shared Governance

- Convened Deans/Provost Council (DPC) meeting on January 31 and discussed the following agenda items: MSCHE Self-Study; Summary of Emerging Strategic Themes (*Curricular Renewal and Innovation; Enrollment and Student Success; Research and Entrepreneurship; Bench-strength [Building and developing the team]; External Engagement; Funding Support and Telling Our Story*) from the Provost's direct reports, Tenure and Promotion, Sabbaticals, Spring 2019 Enrollment and Registration, *90x30*, and the 2019 COACHE survey. DPC also discussed how the council would structure its work moving forward, which would include a weekly meeting of the DPC that would focus on three areas: operational issues, strategic issues, and a monthly rotational meeting to be hosted by each of the major units in Academic Affairs and Student Success.
- Attended the Executive Committee meeting of the General Faculty with President Cruz on January 28, and responded to questions from members of the committee.
- Appointed by the President as his designee to the College Governance Committee, and on January 31, I met with Dr. Duane Tananbaum, Professor of History and Outgoing Chair, College Governance Committee.
- Met with Anne Rice, Chair, Executive Committee of the General Faculty on January 31.
- Attended the Deans' On-Boarding: Accelerating Success Series on January 30, which focused on Class Scheduling (discussion led by Yvette Rosario, Senior Registrar).
- Participated in the President's Cabinet meeting held on January 28.
- Began regular 1:1 meetings with President Cruz as well as staff and leadership in the Office of the Provost.

Meetings and Events

- Represented President Cruz and spoke at the *PEN America Dreaming Out Loud* event on January 31 to launch the City of New York-funded tuition-free writing workshops for undocumented immigrants in the city. The program helps to build a diverse talent pipeline for careers in the literature and publishing industries, and empowers young DREAMers to use their voices to counter misinformation about immigrants. Attending the event were: Jennifer Egan, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and PEN America Board President; Anne del Castillo, Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment Acting Commissioner, and Tom Finkelppearl, NYC Cultural Affairs Commissioner. Lehman is one of the three new CUNY sites selected for this program, which began in 2016, under the Mayor's Grant for Cultural Impact.
- Represented President Cruz at the SBS-Lehman Partnership with the Tech Talent Pipeline (TTP) CUNY 2X Initiative. Deputy Mayor J. Philip Thompson and Commissioner Greg Bishop of the Mayor's Office attended the event, and spoke with students enrolled in the program, taught by Prof. Ross Dakin, TTP Tech in Residence. Following the classroom visit, Deputy Mayor Thompson held a meeting with several members of the Lehman community, which included discussions about the value of external partnerships in advancing student success. The NYC Tech Talent Pipeline was launched in 2014 by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio "to support inclusive growth of the NYC tech sector by delivering quality jobs for New Yorkers and qualified talent for the city's businesses." The program is jointly overseen by Jane MacKillop, dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and Pamela Mills, interim dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences.

- Joined President Cruz, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Daniel Lemons, and Dean of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies, Dr. Jane MacKillop, at the event celebrating *Lehman @ 50* held at CUNY on the Concourse (COTC). This facility, which houses state-of-the-art technology, serves as the business incubator for citizens of the Bronx, who wish to start a business. Councilman Andrew Cohen and many students and graduates of the Small Business Administration program attended the event.
- Joined Donna Linderman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at City University of New York; Susan Ebersole, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Lisa Moalem, Director, Academic Advisement; Dan Lemons, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs; and Ronnie Boriskin, Director, Corporations and Foundations Engagement in a meeting to discuss funding approaches for the expansion of the ACE (Access, Complete, and Engage) program, a CUNY supported program designed to help students complete their degree in four years. Lehman has received funding for \$4.2 million from the Robin Hood Foundation to support the initial cohort of two hundred and fifty (250) students for the program. Additional funding will be needed to expand the program, to include support for winter and summer enrollments.
- Participated in *Conversations at 50* with The School of Continuing and Professional Studies held on January 30 here on campus. Several members of the Bronx community and Lehman attended the event, which was facilitated by Dean Jane MacKillop, School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

I remain excited about serving as your colleague, and look forward to our work together to advance opportunities that benefit our students and the Bronx.

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Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success