

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

LEHMAN COLLEGE • THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK • SPRING 2007

New Programs and Facilities Support Growth As Lehman Continues to Develop Successful Educational Strategies

Dear Students, Colleagues, Alumni, and Friends:

Higher education will continue to face challenges on both the state and national level in 2007, including the need to improve graduation rates, retool teacher education programs, align our efforts more closely with those of K-12 schools, and attract more students to careers in math and science. At Lehman, we have anticipated many of these issues and continue to implement strategies to both address the educational needs of our community and strengthen the College as a whole.

Collaboration, we have found, can often lead to a number of doors. By partnering with community-based organizations on individually funded projects, for instance, we were prepared to collaborate with these groups when significant funding became available for “small schools” in the Bronx. The eight small schools in which we now have an important role are not only becoming academic success stories in their own right, but are also creating opportunities for the development of other new initiatives.

Similarly, Lehman has long-established partnerships with colleges and universities in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Through HETS (Hispanic Educational Telecommunications System) and HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities), these partnerships extend to many other institutions in Mexico, Latin America, and elsewhere in the Caribbean. These collaborations have yielded exchanges of faculty and students, helped us to attract promising young scholars to our graduate programs, extended our outreach to the larger Hispanic community both domestically and globally, and allowed us to take an early role in distance learning, videoconferencing, and other new uses of technology in higher education. Both Lehman and our partner institutions have benefited from these arrangements. Beginning this year, at the request of Chancellor Goldstein, I am heading a committee of CUNY presidents and senior administrators who will seek to strengthen the University's ties, in similar ways, with institutions throughout the Caribbean.

Lehman is also helping to forge solutions to other challenges. *Professor Herminio Martínez*, executive director of the Bronx Institute, represented Lehman at the Second Annual Hispanic Education Summit, held in December. The meeting sought to address the educational barriers facing Hispanic youth, while identifying models and policies that support Latino student success. Professor Martínez spoke about the ENLACE Latino Collegiate Society, an exemplary program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and run by the Bronx Institute. Last year, more than 50 high-performing Latino students, representing a range of Bronx high schools, completed the program and entered some of the nation's most competitive and prestigious colleges, winning scholarships totaling over \$3 million.

Later this month, guided by this same goal—working toward the highest level of achievement for all students—I will become Chair

of the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education (ACE), the major coordinating body for higher education in the United States, with more than 1,800 member institutions. This year, ACE will continue to provide leadership on key higher education issues and public policy debates. Lehman has grappled with many of these issues and debates right on our campus.

The ‘New Face of Lehman’ Takes Root

The Spring 2007 semester will be marked by continuing consideration of these larger “macro” issues, while on a more immediate level, we will see “the new face of Lehman” taking root in both our physical facilities and in the image we communicate to the public.

Lehman's new visual identity was officially launched in the fall, with a stunning viewbook and search mailer showcasing some of our recent students and alumni. The campaign poses a tantalizing question—“Who Do You Think You Are?”—which invites prospective students to explore how their highest aspirations can be achieved at Lehman College. A new “shield” logo was also introduced that incorporates classic elements from the campus with a forward-looking design. This semester will bring an admissions microsite, new prototypes of program brochures, and a graphic standards manual that will include a new design for all College stationery and business cards.

In addition to new branding efforts, the College continues to expand and renovate its physical facilities:

- Construction of the Multimedia Center in Carman Hall is anticipated to be completed this December and will provide students with a state-of-the-art video and audio environment for hands-on learning in the competitive mass media fields.
- Phase I of the Science Facility is progressing as planned, with construction set to begin in Spring 2008. Programming and schematic design phases for Phases I and II of the Science Facility are now complete and have been accepted both by the College and CUNY. Once all funding has been secured, design and construction on Phase II will begin.
- Over in the Leonard Lief Library, the renovation/relocation of the Education Library has been completed and is functioning for this semester. The expanded facility is located on the third floor. In addition, the library and the adjacent Performing Arts Center (PAC) have recently had roofing work completed.

Cornell University Architecture graduate *Omar Isaac* has joined the Campus Facilities Office as a Project Manager and will be a great asset to construction efforts. He comes to Lehman from the Architecture and Planning Services Department of Pace University, where he was an Assistant Architect.

Technology Expands for Teaching and Support

The new year has also arrived with a new focus on the effective use of information technologies in teaching and learning and in student and community services at Lehman College. For many years, Lehman College has offered more online courses than any other CUNY campus. The College is building on this momentum with 85 sections of



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online courses offered this spring and an aggressive plan for developing online degree programs in the near future. The first online degree program, the RN (Registered Nurse) to BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program, will accept its first cohort of students in Fall 2007. Recently, the College also doubled its email server capacity, installed a local spam and virus filtering server for continuous monitoring and frequent updates, and finished configuring a new Stellent web content management system.

Work is also continuing to achieve campus-wide wireless access to the Internet. By the end of this semester, we will finish getting all of Lehman's classrooms, labs, and offices connected to the Internet. Systematic planning and implementation have begun to convert most or all of the College's classrooms into technology-enhanced or "smart classrooms." An aggressive computer replacement project will allow the College to acquire 400-500 new computers by June 30, 2007. Significant network equipment upgrades are also taking place. Several new hires, including a Macintosh technical support specialist, an online teaching and learning technology support specialist, and an instructional design and development librarian, are planned for this year to improve IT services to students, faculty, and staff.

New Education, Language, EGGS Initiatives Underway

Keeping pace with the College's physical and technological improvements, several new initiatives are underway this semester, aimed at expanding Lehman's academic offerings:

- After becoming the first CUNY institution to receive initial accreditation from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) in Spring 2002, Lehman is now scheduled for a continuing accreditation visit in April. NCATE, comprised of more than 30 national associations representing the education profession, is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a professional accrediting body for colleges and universities that prepare teachers and other professional personnel for work in elementary and secondary schools.
- On both the undergraduate and graduate levels, Lehman continues to help shape future educators who are prepared to become leaders in the City's public education system. The first cohort of CUNY Teacher Academy students was admitted last fall, and the College is preparing to admit the 2007-2008 cohort. The total number of applications for the current class has increased from last year and reflects a growing interest in Lehman's program.
- As part of the College's ongoing collaboration with Bronx secondary schools, Lehman has established the Bronx Teacher Resource Collaborative, which will provide a forum for middle and high school teachers to meet with college faculty and plan faculty development programs that will benefit both. Workshops will be offered to foreign language teachers on elements of grammar, teaching methodology, culture, film, literature, and history. The goal of the program is to enhance knowledge of the discipline and provide intellectual stimulation often not available in the classroom. Over 30 teachers (representing the languages of Spanish, Italian, French, and Japanese) have already signed up.
- Lehman is also partnering with the two other CUNY colleges in the Bronx (Hostos Community College and Bronx Community College) in the newly formed Bronx Center for Teaching Innovations (BCTI). Headquartered in Carman Hall and directed by *Professor Anne Walsh*, the Center is focused on the improvement of teaching and learning among Bronx high school students. It will offer professional develop-

ment courses and curriculum development workshops, beginning with a graduate course this spring for math and science teachers in differentiated instruction, classroom management, and SMART Board technology.

- Pending final approvals, Lehman will also begin offering the new master's degree and advanced certificate programs in Educational Leadership later this year.
- Lehman is a microcosm of New York City, with students representing over 90 countries. In keeping with the global nature of today's society, the College has exciting new language offerings that will prepare students to succeed in this global marketplace. The College is in the process of creating a minor in Middle Eastern Studies and is offering Hebrew at Lehman and Arabic at Manhattan College through our Foreign Language Consortium. In Fall 2007 we plan to add Mandarin Chinese, in collaboration with the Marble Hill High School of International Studies, Manhattan College, and the College of Mt. St. Vincent.
- In the EGGS (Environmental, Geographic, and Geological Sciences) Department, *Professor Juliana Maantay*, director of the GISc Program, is working closely with colleagues from the City College Departments of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Civil Engineering, and Landscape Architecture to develop a multidisciplinary master's program in Geographic Information Science, Engineering, and Technology (GISET). The proposed new joint degree would consist of several common core courses offered on both campuses, and three individual specializations or tracks.
- Also in EGGS, *Professor Hari Pant* is spearheading development of an interdisciplinary major in Environmental Science, which would be offered in collaboration with the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, and Physics. This field is one of the fastest-growing employment sectors in the geosciences.
- At the same time, *Professor Heather Sloan*, chair of the EGGS Department, is developing a new certificate program in Earth Science Education. Earth science is the subject area with the greatest shortage of certified teachers in New York City and State. This program will provide a much-needed opportunity for teachers of other science subjects to gain the necessary content knowledge and credit hours to meet New York State teacher certification requirements.

The spring semester promises to be busy not only with academic issues and new courses and programs but also with a full array of cultural events, including concerts, lectures, films, performances, and exhibits sponsored by the Performing Arts Center, the Lehman College Art Gallery, Lehman Stages, the City and the Humanities Program, the Music Department, the Theatre and Dance Programs, the Office of Campus Life, and students themselves. Student athletes will compete in basketball, baseball, swimming, and other sports. In our classrooms, students will continue to learn, grow, and excel.

Especially as teachers, advisors, and counselors, let us make the most of each of these days and weeks at Lehman College. They pass as rapidly as one season turns into another, yet for our students they are the foundation for the many productive years that will follow.

*Ricardo R. Fernández, President
Herbert H. Lehman College
The City University of New York
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